

# RG104 Entry 216

## Volume 4, with Index

January 21, 1839 – December 21, 1839

Letters sent and received by the Secretary of the Treasury relating to the Branch Mints.

Documents are in rough chronological order but are not separated by Branch Mint facility or subject. Blank sheets and routine endorsements have been omitted. Endorsements and addenda sheets have been digitized as they appear in the originals.



RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF  
THE MINT

Records of the Office of the  
Secretary of the Treasury

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH  
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

Vol. 04 of 2~~2~~

NC-152; Entry 216



938061  
H. L. O.

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| Commissions for annual Apay                                    | 8              |
| Coin for Apay from Branch Mints                                | 10             |
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Half Eagles Ten recd for apay from B. Mins.  
Half Dollars Specimen &c

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Ingot & Coin irregular B Mins N Orleans

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Liabilities of N Orleans B Mins to redeem its certificates

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Kennedy Jos L M Appointed Superint B Minn N Orleans

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Weights & Measures for Mint Philadelphia  
" for B Mint in Orleans much needed  
Weights for the operation of B Mint at Charlotte

36

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157. 158. 159



A.

C Sumner  
 Inform him appx U. S. Branch Mint  
 will not yet papered Charlotte N.C. 21 Jan'y '39

I have received yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst  
 advising me, that you transmit by the same mail, a box containing  
 Dies for this Mint; The Box and contents arrived safe.

I have the honor to request, that you will  
 cause to be transmitted to me One Thousand Dollars, under the  
 following estimate of your Annual Report, made 3<sup>d</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1838  
 Doc: No 4. page 72.

|                                              |     |                    |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| For Compensation to Labourers in the various | 333 |                    |
| departments at Branch Mint Charlotte         | 3   | \$ 900. 00         |
| " Incidental & Contingent Expenses           |     | 100. 00            |
|                                              |     | <hr/> \$ 1,000. 00 |

I have the honor to be  
 very respectfully  
 Your Obedt. Servt.

W  
 Wm. R. Mueller

M. and acty Treas<sup>r</sup>

Altho to the  
 Hon<sup>ble</sup> Levi Woodbury  
 Secy Treasury  
 Washington City  
 D.C.







6.

Br. W. D. Mint  
Dehlonge Sept. 1839

Hon. Louis Woodbury

Sir I have the hon. to request  
that you cause your warrant to be issued in  
favor of Dr. H. M. Patterson at Philadelphia for seven  
hundred and fifty dollars out of the appropriation  
for salaries of officers for this branch of  
the Mint for 1839.

And, that you will also be good enough to  
cause your warrant to be issued in my  
favor for fourteen hundred and fifty dollars  
out of the following items of appropriations  
for this branch of the U.S. Mint for 1839.

(Drawn)  
From the sum appropriated for  
Salaries of Officers \$ 850.00  
From the sum appropriated for  
compensation to Laborers 800.00  
\$ 1450.00

I am very respectfully Sir  
your humble servant  
J. H. Singleton  
Chap. Sec.



W<sup>h</sup>R M. (1)

Mint of the United States.  
Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 3d  
inst., enclosing a copy of Mr. Cam-

Letters from U. Mint and Branches marked & numbered  
Mr. 1 up to 150 - to be bound  
in same order - & 1839  
like the letters

which a full explanation was  
given at the time. I hope, how-  
ever, to remove all difficulties by  
a statement which I am preparing,  
but which cannot be completed  
until Monday.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant

T. M. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.



W<sup>h</sup>R M. (1)

Mint of the United States.  
Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d inst., enclosing a copy of Mr. Cambreling's communication asking further explanations as to the estimates for the Mint for 1839. — Mr. Cambreling's difficulties seem to belong more properly to the estimates for 1838, which were certainly somewhat anomalous, but of which a full explanation was given at the time. I hope, however, to remove all difficulties by a statement which I am preparing, but which cannot be completed until Monday.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant

T. M. Levi Proctor, } R. M. Patterson,  
Sec. of Treasury. } Director.



M. (2)

Mint of the United States,  
January 7. 1839.

Sir,

Your Communication of the 2<sup>d</sup> inst., enclosing a copy of a letter from the Hon. Chairman of the Committee of Ways & Means, has been received and duly considered. He asks me "to compare the estimates now submitted, with the appropriations actually made last year, and explain the cause of the difference in each, and also, to explain the three new items, not in the bill of last year, of 18,300, 3,000, and 1000." - He further asks, - "if the Surplus profits on the Copper Coinage are sufficient to pay salaries &c., and that appropriation has not been drawn for, why is that item estimated for in the year 1839?"

The following explanations are respectfully offered, in reply:

1. The difference of estimate for salaries, between the years 1838 and 1839, is \$300. This arises from a proposed increase of the salaries of two Clerks; one, from 1000, to 1200 dollars, - the other from 700, to 800 dollars, founded upon my application to you, of the 24<sup>th</sup> of November.



2. The item for compensation to laborers was, in 1838, \$14,600; in 1839, \$23,000. The explanation of this difference is to be found in a statement forwarded with the estimate for 1838; a copy of which is herewith sent. This statement also accounts for the difference of the remaining parts of the estimates. I need only say that the appropriations for 1837 considerably exceeded our wants for that year; and the balance, being applied to the expenditures for the ensuing year, tended greatly to reduce the estimates for that year; inasmuch that we found it unnecessary to ask for so much as two-thirds of what was expected to be paid to laborers, - or for anything at all, on the score of Contingent Expenses, & new Machinery. - It will be perceived that a very close calculation was made, of our wants for 1838; the statement of Nov. 22<sup>d</sup>. (last) showing an anticipated balance in hand of only one thousand dollars at the end of the year. Consequently, our estimate for 1839, standing by itself, unaided by surplus, and untrammelled by deficit, exhibits nearly the regular annual expenditure, proportioned to the anticipated amount of Coinage; excepting, of course, the two items of 3000, and 1000 dolls., to be noticed presently. In my letter to you, contained in your Report to the House of Representatives, of March 23<sup>d</sup>. 1838, Document No. 273, page 6, you will find a table of the estimated cost of coining different



Annual Amounts. A Coinage of four millions (assumed in my letter of November last) would require \$58,500. My estimate, exclusive of the two extra items of 3000, and 1000 dollars, calls for \$62,000. It is necessary that we should not be straitened in our means of issuing even a much larger amount of coins than is there expected: probably the sum asked for, will enable us to coin five millions, if required. At the same time, I have anticipated a considerable decrease of gain on Copper Coinage.

3. The item of \$3000, for New-machinery, is intended to be applied toward the completing of the System of Coinage by Steam, - a new engine, now nearly finished, and three new presses being necessary for this purpose.

4. The further sum of \$1000. is asked, to enable us to commence a collection of coins and metallic ores, such as can be obtained at or near their intrinsic value; both as a useful and instructive appendage to the institution. From time to time, we are called upon by Congress or by individuals, for information respecting foreign coins; and the possession and study of such a cabinet are necessary, to put it in our power to impart such information. The cost, moreover, will be very trifling, and will always be at least equalled by the value of the collection.

5. The concluding inquiry is, 'if the surplus profits



on the Copper Coinage are sufficient to pay Salaries,  
&c., and that appropriation has not been drawn  
for, why is that item estimated for in the year 1839?"

To this I reply, that the surplus profits of  
Copper Coinage, are, by law, applicable only to the  
Contingent Expenses of the Mint, and are relied  
upon to defray, as far as they go, that branch of  
expenditure; the Salaries of Officers constituting a  
distinct head of appropriation. The appropri-  
ation for 1838, on this account, is, of course, counted  
upon as a part of our resources; the only reason  
why it has not been drawn from the Treasury, is,  
that there has happened to be a balance of money  
on hand, drawn from other items of appropriation.  
This, I understand, has occasionally occurred; but,  
as it is avoidable, and seems to need explanation,  
I shall, in future, direct the Treasurer of the Mint  
to be specific as to the state of our funds on each  
account, and to ask for money accordingly.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To/  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.

M 228 Jan 10  
W. Kean



(Copy) (3)

Mint of the United States,  
December 20. 1837.

Sir,

The following detailed statement of my Estimates for the Mint and its Branches for 1838, is respectfully submitted, in reply to your request of the 18th inst., received this day.

1. Mint of the United States, at Philad<sup>a</sup>.

The appropriation for the year 1837, including an item of \$20,000 for new machinery, was \$101,800.

On the 31st December 1836, there remained a balance in hand, of the appropriation for 1836, of 18,550.

The Profits of the Copper Coinage, of 1837, which become a part of our Ordinary Fund, by Act of Jan'y 18. 1837, are fairly rated at 10,000.

The Credits of Profit & Loss, that is, the deductions from deposits, for the present year, will probably amount to 6,000.

Available funds, for 1837 \$136,350.

The whole amount of expenditures, ordinary and extraordinary, within the year 1837, based upon what was paid in ten months, and inclusive of the wastage, is estimated at 95,850

Probable Balance Dec. 31. 1837 \$40,500.



If the Estimate for 1838 be made without respect to that balance, or to any source of gain, we should be obliged to ask -

For salaries of Officers & Clerks . . . \$20,400.

For wages of Workmen . . . 23,000.

For wastage, supposing the Coinage may be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millions of dollars . . . 13,000.

For incidental & Contingent expenses, including iron, steel, lead, Castings, Copper, Zinc, tallow, oil, Chemical agents, melting pots, Crucibles, Stationary, Water-vent & taxes . . . 26,500.

For new machinery, viz: one two-horse Steam-engine, for the Coining-presses, a Steam-coin-press, and sundry smaller articles . . . 8,600.  
\$91,500.

From this amount, we deduct -

Probable balance of 1837, . . . \$40,500.

Probable gain from Copper Coinage . . . 10,000.

Profit & Loss . . . 6,000. 56,500.

Leaving the amount asked of Congress \$35,000, which, with what we have, and shall have from other sources, will be sufficient to cover the whole expense for 1837.

Upon that basis, the following formal Estimate is submitted, differing slightly from that sent on the 24th of November, particularly in regard to the item for a Clerk in the Director's office, which is found necessary here, and has been approved by the President.



An Estimate of the Expenses of the Mint  
of the United States, at Philadelphia, for the  
year 1838.

| For Salaries of Officers & Clerks:                                               |  | Dolls. | Dolls.  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------|---------|
| The Director                                                                     |  | 3,500. |         |
| The Treasurer                                                                    |  | 2,000. |         |
| The Chief Coiner                                                                 |  | 2,000. |         |
| The Assayer                                                                      |  | 2,000. |         |
| The Melters & Refiners                                                           |  | 2,000. |         |
| The Engraver                                                                     |  | 2,000. |         |
| The Second Engraver                                                              |  | 1,500. |         |
| The Assistant Assayer                                                            |  | 1,300. |         |
| Three Clerks in the Treasurer's Office;<br>two at \$1200. each, & one at \$1000. |  | 3,400. |         |
| One Clerk in the Director's Office                                               |  | 700.   | 20,400. |
| For Compensation to Laborers                                                     |  |        | 14,100. |
| Total                                                                            |  | \$     | 35,000. |



McR

M (4)

Mint of the United States  
Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir, I take the liberty of sending  
to you, by this days mail, two  
boxes containing dies, for the Branch  
Mints at Charlotte and Dahlma-  
ga respectively, which I pray  
you to transmit to them under  
your frank.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant

R. W. Patterson,  
Director.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

Attended to  
W



M(5)

Mint of the United States.  
Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>,  
transmitting ten half eagles for the  
annual assay, from the Branch  
Mint at Dahlouga.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,

P. M. Tattersone,  
(Director)

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury. }



M 6

McK

Mint of the United States,  
Jan. 15th, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to send you  
inclosed a copy of my annual  
report made to the President of  
the United States.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
P. W. Patterson,  
Director.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



M. (7)

Mint of the United States.  
Jan. 23d, 1839.

Sir,  
I take the liberty of sending, by  
this mail, a package for the  
Dahlgren Branch Mint, which  
I pray you to have the goodness  
to forward under your frank.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful Servant  
R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury. }



(Private.) M 8

Mint of the United States.  
Jan. 23d, 1839.

Sir,

I send herewith an official letter, asking for the appointment of the Additional Commissioners for our Annual Assay. The number (as heretofore) cannot conveniently exceed three, and I will take the liberty of suggesting, most respectfully, the names of Hartman Rubin Esq., Prof. Henry Vethake, and Alexander Dallas Bache Esq.

The reputation of these gentlemen is so high as to make it quite unnecessary for me to say any thing in their commendation. The two first are, as you know, avowed advocates of the great measures of the administration; and the last is also a member of the democratic party, though his position withdraws him from active politics.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant

(S/)

Wm. Levi Woodbury. } R. W. Patterson.



M-9

Mint of the United States,  
Jan. 30. 1839.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to  
you, by the present mail two boxes contain-  
ing dies, for the New Orleans Mint, which I  
pray you to forward under your frank, as her-  
etofore.

Very respectfully,  
your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury. }

Forward them  
W



WCKO

M 10

Mint of the United States,  
February 7th, 1839.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., together with the packages of Coins transmitted from the New-Orleans Mint for the Annual Assay.

We have now the Assay Coins from all the Mints ready for the trial to be made on the 11th inst.

I have the pleasure to state that the additional Commissioners appointed by the President have all consented to serve, and that the selection seems to have given great satisfaction.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }



*M. C. 11*

Mint of the United States,  
February 9th, 1839.

Sir,  
*McK*

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 6th inst., asking me to furnish you with the information necessary to enable you to reply to a resolution of the House of Representatives, calling upon you to state "what will be, as nearly as you can estimate, the necessary additional expense of machinery, or of persons to be employed, if a law shall be passed directing the Coinage of Small Change at the Branch Mint in North Carolina, as desired by the Legislature of the State of North Carolina?"

In reply to your letter, I have to state, that if the proposed Coinage be confined to dimes & half-dimes, the present machinery of the Branch Mint will be sufficient for the purpose, and the additional expense will be confined to the Assayer's department, which is not provided with the apparatus for the assay of Silver, or with suitable moulds for the ingots. The Assayer, moreover, is not instructed in the art of assaying Silver, and it would therefore be necessary for one of the Officers of this Mint to go to Charlotte in order to establish there this new operation in a safe and satisfactory manner. The whole expense, on these accounts, will not exceed one thousand dollars.



As to the employment of additional workmen, the officers of the Charlotte Mint have repeatedly represented that this was desirable even for their present operations, and it would become necessary if they were also charged with the Coinage of Silver. In this case, two additional hands would probably be required; and, as the wages at Charlotte are very high, the corresponding annual increase of expense would not be less than fifteen hundred dollars.

In making these estimates, I have supposed that the Coinage of Silver Change would be confined to the Silver separated from gold at the Mint, and to such deposits of foreign coins as were likely to be made from the neighborhood; since it seems highly improbable that bullion should be sent from the great sea ports to Charlotte for Coinage, to be thence distributed over the country, when this bullion could be promptly exchanged, at the Philadelphia Mint, for its full value in any American coins desired. As to the foreign Silver coins that may be deposited at the Charlotte Mint to be converted into dimes and half dimes, I have no means of estimating their amount, but, supposing the proportion of Silver in the gold coined during the past year, at that Mint, to be twenty per cent. in weight, (which is a full average,)



the value of the Silver Separated must have been  
about one thousand dollars. The amount actu-  
ally separated has not been reported to  
me.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



77. 12  
Mint of the United States,  
February 12. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., asking "the full extent to which you can, if necessary, draw on the Mint without creating serious inconvenience".

I subjoin a statement from which it appears that we have in our vaults silver coins to the amount of \$249,730, and gold coins to the amount of \$657,900. - As we have often deposits of silver of \$100,000 and \$200,000, our amount of silver coins could not be reduced without endangering an interruption of our system of prompt payments, - an event greatly to be deplored. But I think you may, without subjecting us to serious inconvenience, draw for half a million, provided you do not specify the kind of coins, so that we make payments in gold.

A treasury draft in favor of the New Orleans Mint, issued Oct. 13. 1838, for \$50,000, was paid by us yesterday in silver, on a New-Orleans Mint



Certificate for a deposit of Silver, due to the  
Bank of the United States. This operation,  
you will perceive, increases the New Orleans  
government deposit \$50,000, and diminishes  
ours to the same amount.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury. }



To the Cr. of  
United States Mint Sep. Acct. \$206,548.24  
United States Bullion Acct. 875,879.38 \$1,082,427.62

On hand.

Silver Coins \$149,730.13 in Treas.<sup>r</sup> vault.

Do do 200,000.00 "C. Coins" do.

\$349,730.13

Deduct amt.

due Bk. of the U.S. 100,000.00 \$249,730.13

Gold Coins in Treasurer's vault 657,900.00

Total Amount of Coins, \$907,630.13

Bullion on hand 174,797.49 \$1,082,427.62



M

(13)

Mint of the United States,  
Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you enclosed  
a copy of the report made yesterday by the  
Commissioners for the Annual Assay. You will  
see that the result is perfectly satisfactory,  
and this is particularly gratifying with regard  
to the Branch Mints, where the little experience  
of the officers would have led us to expect and  
excuse a much greater deviation from absolute  
accuracy.

Very respectfully,  
your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

Original report  
to be kept if one  
to be required  
W



M. 14

At a meeting of the Commissioners appointed under the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sect. of the Act entitled "an Act Supplementary to an act entitled an act establishing a mint and regulating the coins of the United States", passed the 18<sup>th</sup>. of January, 1837, held at the Mint of the United States on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1839, for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the pieces of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint at Philadelphia and its Branches,

Present: -

Hon. Joseph Hopkinson, Judge of the District Court  
for the Eastern district of Penn<sup>a</sup>.  
George Wolf, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia.  
John M. Read, Attorney of the United States for the  
Eastern district of Pennsylvania.

Hartman Kuhn,  
Henry Vethake,  
A. D. Bache, } Commissioners designated by the  
President.

Also present: -

The Director,  
The Treasurer,  
The Chief Coiner,  
The Melter & Refiner,  
The Assayer, and  
The Engraver.

The Commissioners proceeded to examine and count the pieces of gold coins and pieces of silver coins



heretofore indiscriminately taken by the Treasurer in the presence of the Assayer, and deposited and kept under the joint care of the Treasurer and Assayer, agreeably to the provisions of the 27th. Section of the said Act, and by them presented for trial. Also the parcels of coins from the Branch Mints, transmitted under seal to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, agreeably to the provisions of the 4th. Sect. of an Act entitled "An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States", and by him presented for trial, - said coins being of the following description, viz: gold pieces from the Mints of Charlotte, N.C. and of Dahlonega, Geo., and silver pieces from the Mint at New Orleans, La. The number of pieces were compared, those from the Mint at Philadelphia with the entries in a book kept for the purpose, those from the Branch Mints with the endorsements upon the parcels, and were found in every case to correspond.

The Commissioners then, with the assent of the officers of the Mint, directed that each parcel of coins should be weighed; when it was found that the gold pieces from the Mint of Philadelphia exceeded in weight the standard declared by law, by one part in four thousand four hundred & forty-eight; the silver pieces from the same Mint exceeded the standard declared by law, one part in one thousand and twenty-nine. The gold pieces from the Branch-



Mint at Charlotte, exceeded the Standard by one part in two thousand two hundred & eighty-four; - those from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, exceeded the same Standard by one part in two thousand six hundred & eighty-eight; and the Silver pieces, from the Branch Mint at New Orleans, agreed precisely in weight with the Standard.

The Commissioners then, with the assent of the officers of the Mint, directed that the pieces of gold and silver coins, as aforesaid, should be assayed; and the same being done, it was found that the gold pieces from the Mint of Philadelphia, were superior in fineness to the legal Standard, one part in ~~four~~ thousand; and the silver pieces from the same mint were superior to the legal Standard, one part in twenty four hundred: that the gold pieces, from the Branch Mint at Charlotte, corresponded in fineness with the Standard: that the gold pieces, from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, exceeded in fineness the Standard, by one part in four thousand; and that the silver pieces, from the Branch Mint at New Orleans, exceeded in fineness the legal Standard, by one part in twenty five hundred.

The Commissioners therefore approved the gold coins, issued at the Mint of Philadelphia, and the Branches at Charlotte and Dahlonega, and the silver coins issued at the Mint of Philadelphia, and the Branch at New Orleans, between the first day of January, 1838, and the thirty-first day of December, 1838.



And the Commissioners having also examined the Standard weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint at Philadelphia, and their accuracy having been tested in their presence, they were found to be regulated according to the Standard established by law.

(Signed)

Geo. Hopkinson.

Geo. Wolf.

John M. Read.

Hartman Kuhn.

Henry Vethake.

A. S. Backe.

R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint.



M

(15)

Mint of the United States.  
Feb. 25th 1839.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you  
a box containing two pairs of half-  
dollar dies, which I pray you to  
forward, under your frank, to the  
Mint at New Orleans.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. W. Patterson Seco,  
Director.

Attended to this today  
W

J. Am. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of the Treasury.



McK

M

C16

Mint of the United States.  
March 12th, 1839.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by this mail, a pair of half-dollar dies, for the Mint at New Orleans, which I pray you to forward, as heretofore, under your frank.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

Attest to this

G

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



M 17  
Mint of the United States,  
March 13. 1839.

Sir,

In your letter of the 9th inst., acknowledging the receipt of our gold report for February, you state that "it is hoped and expected that all proper steps will be taken to keep the Mint and its Branches actively employed the ensuing season".

This remark suggests to me the propriety of stating to you that the Mint is at this time almost out of work, and that I do not know of any probability of receiving large deposits of bullion. The great source, Mexico, from which we have heretofore received our principal supplies, seems to be closed by the troubles in that country.

The enclosed statement will show how small have been our deposits since January. In that month the Bank of the United States gave us 400,000 Mexican dollars, but it is not probable that they will lend us more. As to foreign gold coins, they are kept out of the Mint by the overvaluation given to them by the Act of June 28th, 1834, to which I have called



attention in vain.

On the 5th of February, I wrote to Mr. Newbold to ask if the Bank of America had a supply of bullion or foreign coins which they would send us, as we were then at comparative leisure. He answered that they had not, but that they would be willing to enter into an engagement similar to that which procured us our former supply from Mexico and South America. The present money relations of the government make me fear that this is impracticable; but I respectfully submit the proposition to your judgment and decision.

I believe that the supply of coins at present in the Banks is very small, and that another suspension is to be feared, perhaps at an early day. If it occurs, the fund in the Mint will be found lamentably diminished, unless some means can be found to replenish it.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director)

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }

Very truly yours as I am able  
to give you a more full account of the same



M 18

Deposites of Bullion rec<sup>d</sup> at the Mint.

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| Silver | Gold. |
|--------|-------|

|                              |                     |                             |                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1839.                        |                     | 1839                        |                  |
| January.                     | \$409,329.57        | January                     | \$11,763.16      |
| February.                    | 1,692.40            | February.                   | 14,745.31        |
| March 11th.                  | 8,034.61            | To March 11th,              | 7,044.19         |
|                              | <u>\$419,056.58</u> |                             | <u>33,552.66</u> |
| Of which from Bk. U. States, | \$400,513.87        | Of which from Bk. U. States | \$2,518.14       |

Deposites unpaid.

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Silver            | Gold.             |
| \$3,004.90        | \$372.09          |
| 574.05            | 644.28            |
| 213.18            | 382.29            |
| 32.47             | 2941.56           |
| <u>\$3,824.60</u> | <u>\$4,340.22</u> |



M 19

Mint of the United States.  
March 12th, 1839.

Sir,  
I send, by the present mail, to the President of the United States, the resignation of Mr. Adam Eckfeldt, as Chief Coiner of the Mint. I have strongly recommended that Mr. Franklin Peale be transferred to this place, from that which he now holds; and I have intended to name an eminent Chemist, Mr. Jas C. Barth, to this place, if the transfer be made. I sincerely hope that you will join me in these recommendations.

As the President will no doubt communicate to you the letters



which I have sent to him, I take  
the liberty of referring you to them  
for full information, and therefore  
enter into no details here.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson.

Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of the Treasury.



20

Sir,

Sir,

"Dr. Hamann has for various reasons, which I deem to be good, come to the determination of casting not less than 25 ingots at each melt; consequently the \$ 20, 000 is not sufficient to enable me to pay depositors, should they all apply at or near the same time. To enable me to meet the whole amount of the aforesaid 25 ingots, I must beg the favor of you to ask the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury, for ten thousand dollars more, making our accommodation equal to Charlotte."

I think there is justice and propriety in the claim thus made for the Saklonega Mint, and I accordingly recommend it to your consideration.

Very respectfully,

Yours faithful servant

R. M. Patterson

Non. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.



M

(21)

Mint of the United States,  
March 13. 1839.

Sir,

I have received this morning, from the Treasurer of the United States, a draft in my favor for \$ 3000, the origin and object of which are not known to me. May I ask you to give me the explanation which your correspondence must no doubt put in your possession.

I was in expectation of a draft for \$ 1200 on account of the Dahlonega Mint, but the draft forwarded, being for a different amount, is not explained by this circumstance.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.

Look into this &  
inform me  
W



M (22)

Mint of the United States,  
March 14. 1839.

Sir,

I enclose to you, by the present  
mail, a bundle of Cancelled Certificates,  
for the Superintendent of the Branch Mint  
at Charlotte, which I will thank you to  
forward under your frank.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.



M (23)

Mint of the United States.  
March 14th, 1839.

Sir  
I send you, by this mail, a box  
containing two pairs of quarter-eagle  
dies, which I pray you to forward,  
under your print, as heretofore, to  
the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful Servant,  
R. W. Patterson,  
Director.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



Wm

(24)

Mint of the United States.  
March 18th, 1839.

Sir, I take the liberty of sending you,  
by the present mail, a box contain-  
ing two pairs of dime dies, for  
the Mint at New Orleans, which  
I pray you to have the goodness to  
forward, under your frank, as haste-  
free.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
R. W. Patterson,  
Director.

To Wm. Lewis Woodbury,  
Secy of Treasury.



M

(25)

Mint of the United States,  
March 19, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a Report upon the Assays of certain Gold and Silver Coins, Specified in the Acts of Congress, of April 10, 1806, and June 28, 1834.

Gold Coins.

Great Britain. The assay is  $915\frac{1}{2}$  thousandths fine, which falls short of the legal fineness by one thousandth. The value per dw't. is therefore  $94\frac{42}{100}$  Cents.

France. Assay, (pieces of forty and twenty francs,) 899 thousandths; less than the proper fineness by one thousandth. Value per dw't.  $92\frac{92}{100}$  cents.

Spain and Mexico. Assay various, but averaging 866 thousandths. Value per dw't.  $89\frac{57}{100}$  cents.

Peru and Chili. The assay is uncertain, but an average of 868 thousandths is a safe assumption. Value per dw't.  $89\frac{76}{100}$  cents.

Colombia. A marked difference is found in the fineness of coins of the two Mints, Bogota and Popayan. The former will average 870 fine, worth  $89\frac{92}{100}$  cents per dw't.; the latter, 858 fine, and worth  $88\frac{68}{100}$  cents per dw't. The smaller denominations of the two Mints, as the eighth



and sixteenth of a doubloon, do not result as well as the doubloon, by about five thousandths, in the respective cases.

In 1831, the Colombian Union was dissolved, and the three States of Venezuela, New Grenada, and Ecuador, became independent of each other. The title of Colombia, however, was retained on the coins of New-Grenada, up to the year 1836, inclusive. In 1837, a new coinage appeared, with different devices. Doubloons of this emission, dated 1837 and 1838, average 871 fine, and are worth  $90\frac{92}{100}$  cents per dwt.

A half-doubloon, only, of Ecuador (Mint of Quito) has been assayed here; it proved to be 844 fine. No coins of Venezuela, since the disunion, have been received.

Bolivia. Assay, 870 thousandths fine. Value  $89\frac{72}{100}$  cents per dwt.

Central America and La Plata. No late specimens. These coins are considerably debased, as well as irregular. Doubloons of Central America may, however, be safely enough received as 830 fine, and therefore worth  $85\frac{72}{100}$  cents per dwt; La Plata, 815 fine, and of the value of  $84\frac{24}{100}$  cents per dwt.

Portugal and Brazil. Assay, 914 fine. Value per dwt.  $94\frac{46}{100}$  cents.



## Silver Coins.

Spanish Dollars. The pillar dollars of Spanish America ceased to be coined about the year 1822. The dollars of the Peninsula are not regular in fineness, but will average the same quality as our own coin, and are therefore worth  $116\frac{36}{100}$  cents per ounce.

The Crowns of France ceased to be issued in 1793. - The pieces of Five-frances, are of the standard fineness of our coin.

The Brazilian pieces of 960 reis, being a re-stamp of the Spanish Dollar, are also of the same fineness as our coin.

The Dollars of Mexico, upon an average of the various mints, and in the proportion in which they are usually presented here, are 897 thousandths fine, and worth  $115\frac{97}{100}$  cents per ounce.

The Dollars of Central America are about 896 fine, and worth  $115\frac{84}{100}$  cents per ounce.

The Dollars of Peru, and, since the disunion, of the States of North Peru and South Peru, may be safely received at an average fineness of 901 thousandths, equivalent to  $116\frac{49}{100}$  cents per ounce.

The Dollars of Chili are of the average fineness of 906 thousandths, and worth  $117\frac{13}{100}$  cents per ounce.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, {  
Sec. of Treasury. } R. M. Patterson,  
Director.



M

(26)

Mint of the United States,  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

Your communication of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. has been received, containing inquiries in regard to the Annual Reports on Foreign Coins, and asking for an account of sundry foreign coins sent here for assay, together with some burnt pieces taken from the ruins of the Treasury building.

The duty of reporting to the Department the fineness and value of certain foreign coins, specified in the Acts of 1806 and 1834, has not been lost sight of; but partly through the difficulty of obtaining later specimens than those already reported on, and partly through the purpose of the Assayers to furnish a more comprehensive and satisfactory statement than the usual one, the duty has been delayed from time to time; and I can only convey the regret of those officers that no report has been made since 1835. - It may be remarked, that part of the coins mentioned, as the Crown of France, and the Spanish Dollar, (except the unimportant issues of the Peninsula,) have become obsolete; and that the Federal Republic of Colombia has been broken up; so that



there is, properly, no longer any Colombian Coinage. - I may also advert to my last annual Report, as containing specific information in regard to the gold coins of Great Britain, Portugal and Brazil.

In the meantime, much of the leisure of the Assayers has been occupied in making careful and repeated trials of the weights and fineness of the coins of all countries, issued within the last century; in carrying forward numerous experiments upon gold & silver Bullion; investigating bands in bullion and coin, &c.; all of which, it is hoped, will be so completed, and put into such a shape, as to be valuable to the public, and creditable to the Institution.

Steps were taken last summer, to account with the Department for the coins and fragments transmitted to the Mint, during the direction of my predecessor. The matter has been postponed, however, for reasons not worth mentioning; and I am glad that you have drawn my attention to it, so that it may be settled at once. I do not find that any account was taken of the value of the coins, at the time of their receipt; and indeed, this was scarcely practicable, as many of them were new to us, and could only be determined by the assay. It would seem that the intention



was to account for them in mass, after the objects, for which they were sent, were fulfilled. I have therefore made the best settlement that could be arrived at, under the circumstances, and am satisfied that a just return is presented in the accompanying Schedule. The amount will be placed to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, as of this date, unless you shall otherwise direct.

The accompanying Report on Foreign Coins, is made in accordance with the suggestion in your postscript, and will be found conformable to the requisitions of law. - I would take the liberty to suggest that the want of new coins for the Annual assay, which has hitherto much embarrassed us, might be obviated by an order of the Department to Consuls or Commercial Agents, resident in European and American nations, to furnish annually, duplicate series of coins of the latest emission. It was by a Circular of the Secretary of the Treasury, under date of August 31st, 1833, that the specimens were procured, which are herewith accounted for. The object might equally well be attained, if the Director of the Mint should be authorized by the Department, to make the request of Consuls, to forward such specimens to the Mint, to be charged by them in their accounts as usual, and to be placed to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, as soon



as their value could be ascertained. This method  
would only be resorted to in cases where the coins  
could not be procured at home. The loss  
by transportation and exchange would be very tri-  
fling; whilst the advantage would be afforded  
to the Department, and to the public, through  
this Institution, of possessing the latest infor-  
mation respecting the metallic currency  
of foreign countries.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To  
Mr. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

M 413 Mark 22  
W. Kean



M 27

Mint of the United States,  
March 25. 1839.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, a  
box containing two pairs of half-dime dies,  
for the Mint at New Orleans, which I pray  
you to forward, under your frank, as here-  
tofore.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.



WCK ~~Mr~~ ~~did not come~~ with this mail  
arrived (28)

Mint of the United States.  
March 22d, 1839

Sir,

I send you, by the present mail,  
a box containing two pairs of half-  
eagle dies for the Branch Mint  
at Dahlmege, which I pray  
you to forward under your frank,  
as heretofore.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. W. Patterson,

Director.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



M  
MCKO

(29)

Mint of the United States.  
March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the "box containing assay-clippings for re-assay at the Mint," transmitted, through your Department, by the Superintendent of the N Branch Mint at New Orleans.

I will take immediate steps for investigating the unfavorable reports with regard to the New Orleans Mint, to which you have asked my attention, and will report to you the results when ascertained.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

(file)

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury. }



M (30)

Mint of the United States,  
April 8th, 1839.

Sir,

In your letter of the 6th, of which I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, you request me to make to the Department "at least quarterly statements of the coinage &c. at each of the Branch Mints?" Your instructions, in this particular, shall be attended to, and a report for the first quarter of the present year forwarded to you, as soon as I receive from the Branches their Monthly reports for March.

I have a letter from Dr. McClinton of the 2nd. inst., in which he states that he "will make all reasonable haste, after complying with the requirements of the laws, to take upon himself the new duties of his appointment."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury. }



MCK

Mint of the United States  
April 12th, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., in which you refer to our correspondence of the 13th and 15th ult., on the subject of placing in my hands funds for procuring, from abroad, bullion for coinage at the Mint. You state that the condition of the Treasury will not probably be such for some time to come, as to justify such an addition to the deposits with the Mint as to authorize extensive operations of that nature, but you ask whether it may not be possible to make use of our present deposits for the purpose.

In reply I have respectfully to state, that I do not think our deposits can be safely or properly used for the purchase of bullion, in any other way than that in which it is at present employed, - namely for the purchase of bullion delivered at the Mint for coinage. Since we have had a sufficient supply of



coins in our vaults, it has been our invariable practice to purchase, at its full Mint value, and by prompt payment, all the bullion brought to us. We no longer issue Certificates. Now our fund is not more than sufficient for this purpose. Indeed it lately fell short, in actual coins, of the amount required for paying for deposits of \$200,000 in gold, and \$200,000 in silver, made within a few days of each other.

The fund formerly used for procuring bullion for the Mint was nothing more than a Bank Credit, and the transaction led to a real gain of specie to the Mint and to the Country. Our present government deposit is already in silver and gold alone, and therefore could not be used with the same result.

Under these circumstances, it seems to me that we have only to look forward to a better condition of the Treasury, when a new deposit may be spared to the Mint to be used, as in the former case, for the express purpose of procuring bullion abroad. As to the employment of the Mints, there seems to be great reason to hope that the affairs of Mexico are on



the point of such an arrangement as will  
again open this great bullion market  
to our country.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }



McK

M (32)

Mint of the United States.  
April 4th, 1839.

Sir,

Mr. Peale has duly received his commission as Chief Coiner of the Mint, and Mr. Eckfeldt has received a very kind letter from you on his retirement from office, for which he is truly grateful. It would seem, therefore, as if Mr. Peale should give his new bond, take his new oath of office, and assume Mr. Eckfeldt's place immediately. Yet it would be very inconvenient to take these steps before Dr. McClintock's arrival, as it would leave a temporary vacancy in the Mint, and arrest our operations. I have therefore prayed Mr. Eckfeldt and Mr. Peale to retain their present offices until, by Dr. McClintock's arrival, the entire new arrangement



may be made at once. If there  
be, in your judgment, any thing  
unlawful or improper in this course,  
I beg you to inform me; if not,  
we shall follow it.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson  
Director

Emm Gryphy  
W

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



*M*  
*check*

*33*

Mint of the United States.

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

I have not yet received the monthly report, from the New Orleans Mint, for March, and cannot, therefore, make to you, as you request, a regular report of the operations of the Branch Mints, for the first quarter of the present year. As a communication received yesterday, from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, enables me, however, to give a more estimate of the work which they have done, I have judged it best to send you the enclosed statement, as nearly approaching to the truth, though I cannot vouch for its entire accuracy.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

J. H. Lewis Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

R. M. Patterson  
Director.



34  
Mint of the United States.  
April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

In a letter received from you on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult., you called my attention to an article in the Globe of the 27<sup>th</sup>, complaining of the inefficiency of the Branch Mints, and particularly of that at New Orleans.

As to the Mints at Charlotte and at Dahlburga, I think that no explanations are necessary. Though they met with delays and difficulties in consequence of their helpless position, they are now in a good condition, and are both doing all the work that is required of them. My last reports from these Mints are quite satisfactory.

The complaints with regard to the Mint at New Orleans seemed to require investigation, and I accordingly addressed a series of questions to the Superintendent, and I have



the honor to send you herewith a copy of his answer. You will see by them that the scarcity of the coinage is referred principally to the Coiner's department. It is natural that it should be so. The machinery of this department is extensive and complicated, and it was not to be expected that it could be at once set in successful operation, and especially as it had to be set up by a person not connected with the mint or acquainted with its business. To repair the mistakes made by this contractor, as well as the original imperfections in the machines themselves, the Coiner had but few workmen whom he could employ, and hence this labor could not be completed until the 7th of May 1838, and, after this, but three months work could be done before the suspension of work for the summer. It is not surprising, therefore, that so little coinage was effected last year, though it is certainly much to be regretted.



It may possibly be inferred, from  
our remark in Mr. Bradford's letter,  
that sufficient care had not been taken,  
at this place, to procure the most  
perfect machinery for the New Orleans  
Mint. Such a conclusion would not  
be just. The machinery was made  
by the best workmen in Philadelphia,  
and much of it under the immediate  
superintendence of the Chief of  
the New Orleans Mint. All of it was  
submitted to his inspection before it  
was sent away, and I particularly  
requested that he would examine it  
carefully. As to the kind and quality  
of the machinery, I have only further  
to remark that the engine, rolling  
mill, draw benches, cutting presses,  
milling machines, and coining presses  
are exactly similar to those employed  
at this Mint, and that the New Or-  
leans establishment is made on the  
same scale, and calculated to do  
as much work as our own.

Thus my communication ought  
perhaps to close; but I wish first



to call your attention to two facts  
which have a bearing upon the politi-  
cal turn which the writer of the arti-  
cle in the Globe has endeavored to give  
to this matter. The first fact is that  
there was imported into New Orleans, from  
the 7th of May, <sup>1838</sup> to the 24th of March 1839,  
but \$44,910 in uncoined bullion.  
All the rest was in coins, — no doubt  
principally Mexican dollars, — was a  
legal tender, familiarly used, and  
could have been put into circulation  
without recoinage if this had been  
desired. The insufficiency of the Mint  
cannot therefore have been a cause of  
the scarcity of coins. — The second  
fact is that the only New Orleans  
Mint Certificate paid here to the Bank  
of the United States was one for \$50,000;  
and that this was done, at my request,  
as a means of transferring, from this  
Mint to that at New Orleans, this as-  
mount in silver, for which you had  
given them a draft on us, for the pur-  
pose of increasing their public deposits.  
Very respectfully, Yours &c.  
To Hon. Lewis Woodbury }  
Sec. of Treasury. } P. M. Patterson,  
Director.



Copy. M 35

U. S. B. Mint, New Orleans,  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup>. inst., in which you propose the following enquiries:

"1<sup>st</sup>. When did you commence coming?" To which I answer, - On the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 1838.

"2<sup>d</sup>. Were you supplied from Philadelphia with the necessary machinery, apparatus & materials required for your operations, or do you think that you have had reasonable grounds for complaint in this respect, and that this has been a prominent cause of the scanty coinage of last year?"

In the Assayer's, Melter & Refiner's, and Coiner's departments I believe that the necessary machinery, apparatus & materials, requisite to commence operations, were supplied. The reports of the Assayer and Melter & Refiner to me to that effect were quite satisfactory. The reports of the Coiner however would seem to indicate that the cause of delay and of the scanty coinage of the last year are to be found in his department. In his first report to me, dated Jan. 1, 1838, he says: "Considerable delay has been occasioned, and some future inconvenience may be appre-



2 headed from the injudicious departure, of the person  
employed to place the said engine & machinery,  
from the plan given him. For instead of placing  
the engine in the middle of the room, as was in-  
tended, he has placed it four & a half feet towards  
the annealing furnaces, which, besides destroying  
the symmetry of the room and violating the rules  
of good taste, throws the annealing furnaces away  
from their foundation previously laid and settled,  
rendering almost useless the room beyond, designed  
for whitening cleaning, &c., and likewise, in the  
opposite side of the building, brings the line shaft,  
intended for driving the coining presses, an equal  
distance out of its proper place. To these remarks  
I feel bound to add, that the entire machinery  
in the principal story of the building is found to be  
too low for the floor by two inches." Again: "The  
coining-presses, of which there are three of different  
sizes, will all require material alterations to ren-  
der them efficient & durable. But the largest  
may be gotten ready for temporary use in three  
or four weeks, and in the mean time the other two  
may be undergoing a more thorough preparation.  
Of the other machines and the minor apparatus, I  
need only say that the former are all of them more  
or less unfinished, and that the latter require time  
to arrange & put them in operation." In his  
second report, dated Feb. 27, 1838, he says: "I have  
used all possible diligence in forwarding my pre-  
sents of (Machinery.)  
Director.



parations, in order to be ready to commence operations<sup>3</sup> in the course of the ensuing month. Two of the Coining presses are nearly ready for the reception of the dies". In his report of the 31st. of July, he assigns as a reason for having coined only one description of coins, "the very limited number of men employed in his department," which, he states, "has rendered it impracticable in our present stage of advancement to keep up a supply of planchets of even a single kind for the full operation of a single coining-press, and at the same time to do justice to the branches which are in the rear." Again: "A great cause of delay has been found in the imperfection of the rolls. It would be a <sup>task</sup> vain, to undertake to enumerate all the various hindrances and disappointments which have tended to retard our progress, such as the want for a long time of weighing balances, and to the present time, of any thing like suitable weights."

From these extracts, I cannot but think, if the Coined be right, that the defective & unfinished state of all the machinery in the coining department has been a prominent cause of the scanty coinage of last year, and that in this respect there has been reasonable ground of complaint. The assurance of Mr. Gordon, and the statement contained in the Annual report, relative to the Mint and its Branches, to the President, in Jan., 1838, made me feel authorized to reply to the numerous enquiries of the citizens as to the time when the operations



4  
of the Mint would commence, that I could not entertain a doubt of our being in full operation early in the Spring of 1838, and that a very efficient coinage would be the result of our operations during the year. Soon after the first deposit was made by M. de L'Islande & Co., Mr. E. J. Forstall of that firm stated to me that he wished to deposit \$300,000. worth of bullion provided he could have the positive assurance of its being coined by the 1st of July. I asked Mr. Tyler if it could be done, and he expressed himself confidently that it could with certainty. Mr. Forstall however finding that no coinage was going on, did not make the deposit. How far Mr. Tyler was deceived is evident from the fact that up to the 1st of August, only \$40,000 were coined.

Aware of the disappointment of the public and of the injury that would result to this Branch Mint, I repeatedly urged Mr. Tyler to push on his operations as rapidly as possible. He always encouraged me with the hope that in a few days every thing would be in full operation; but I was invariably disappointed by the intelligence of new defects in the machinery rendering much repairs indispensable, and further delay unavoidable.

"3d. When were the operations of the Mint suspended to allow the unacclimated officers and  
Director.



Cm. P. 35

men to leave New Orleans, - and when were the operations resumed by their return?"

The operations of this Br. Mint were suspended on the 1st of August. Business was resumed in the Assaying and Melting & Refining departments in November; - Coining, about the 1st of January, 1839.

"4th. Did you not consider this suspension, for the first hot season, an act of prudence and propriety?"

I did; but I am now convinced, from the information of experienced physicians, that it is only by remaining here during the summer, that northern men can be acclimated, & that no advantage whatever could be gained in that respect, by their leaving the City during the hot season. I am moreover persuaded that the welfare of this institution requires that it should be kept in full operation, the whole year, unless the yellow fever should prevail, [as] as much bullion arrives during the summer months from Mexico, as <sup>in</sup> any other part of the year, and if northern officers & workmen cannot be found who will incur that risk, I am satisfied that both officers & workmen, acclimated and fully ~~competent~~ ~~and~~ qualified for their respective duties may be found in this city.

"5th. How are the operations of the Mint now going forward? Have you more than one press at work? Have you yet coined any thing but dimes



6 and half-dimes? If so, what other coins? What are your immediate prospects as to coinage?"

The operations of the Mint go on much better at present than they did last year; though a great change must yet take place before the expectations of the Government and the public will be realized. We have never had more than one press at work at a time, nor have we now. Besides dimes & half-dimes, we have coined half-dollars. As to our immediate prospects of coinage I can see no reason to induce me to hope that, without some decided change, we shall do much better than we have already done. As to the supply of bullion, I feel no anxiety. The Mint I believe will always be supplied with bullion when Depositors can be accommodated with coins.

"6th. How much has been deposited at your Mint for coinage? of this how much has been paid?"

The amount deposited for coinage up to the present time is \$ 332,595.32; of which there has been of Silver, \$ 261,659.15, and of gold, \$ 70,936.17. Of this there has been paid \$ 226,757.97 - being, of Silver \$ 204,494.23, and on account of gold \$ 22,263.74 - out of the fund provided by the Secretary of the Treasury \$ 135,000.00, - in coins of the Mint \$ 91,757.97.

Director.



7th. State the whole amount of your coinage up to the date of your report."

It amounts to \$116,403.40 - in dimes, half-dimes and half-dollars.

8th. If you can learn how much foreign silver & gold has been imported into New Orleans since the opening of your Mint, I should be very glad to have this information, and if possible I should like to know how much was in uncoined bullion."

On application to the Collector, I have ascertained that there was reported from the 7th of May, 1838, to the 24th of March, 1839, of foreign bullion - \$1,493,337. - of which about \$70,000. - was gold; and \$444,910. - in uncoined silver bullion. The Collector informed me that there was much more brought in and not reported. Formerly, nearly all the bullion imported from Mexico was in bars. Since a heavy duty has been laid on bullion exported, the proportions have been reversed, so that at this time about \$300,000 is the supposed estimate of the amount imported from Mexico in bars. From the information I have received, I am induced to believe from the great benefit which has resulted from the few experimental deposits of uncoined bullion that have been made in this mint, and the assurances of gentlemen on -



gaged in the Mexican trade in this city, and of others who reside in Mexico, that the amount of uncoined bullion hereafter will be immensely increased. In former years as much as eight millions of bullion & specie have been received in this city in one year, from Mexico. There is no reason to doubt that commercial prosperity will, now that peace has been concluded between France and Mexico, be speedily restored.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

(Signed) David Bradford,  
Supt.

To/

Dr. R. M. Patterson,  
Director of the Mint. }



McK

(36)

Mint of the United States,  
May 3d, 1839.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, two boxes, containing dies for the Branch Mint at Charlotte, N.C., which I pray you to forward, as heretofore, under your frank.

I sincerely thank you for your assent to my request to have the weights made by Mr. Hassler, for this and the New Orleans Mint, sent here for adjustment, and for your instructions to Mr. Hassler to send us his "improved balance", which will be necessary to us in making this adjustment, and will be of great importance afterwards as a beam for weighing silver.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }



37  
Mint of the United States,  
May 6th, 1839.

Sir,

I received this morning, from James Maxwell, Esq., Melter & Refiner of the New Orleans Mint, a letter of which I feel it my duty to send you a copy. The statement made by Mr. Maxwell is very obscure, but the case, as I understand it, may be presented as follows:

On the 16th of April last, two deposits were made at the Mint. One was of hammered dollars and French Crowns, and was melted for assay. The other was of Mexican dollars, (about two hundred in number,) which it is not customary to melt, for the purpose of assay, as their quality is known from the character of the coin. The deposit must however, as a matter of regular course, have been weighed, numbered, and recorded.

In a few days after, when Mr. Maxwell was receiving bullion from the Weigher, he found among the Assayer's reports, one of No. 98, corresponding in weight, name, date, and kind of coin, to the deposit in question. Mr. Maxwell told the Weigher that he had



never received this deposit, and the Weigher asserted that he had. Now as the Assayer declared that he had not reported on any deposit not melted, the inference was either that the Mexican Dollars had been melted for assay - which is not usual, and which was denied positively by the Melter, - or that they had disappeared while in the keeping of the Weigher, acting for the Treasurer, for it seems that they were not to be found.

An investigation was made from which it appeared that leaves had been torn out of the book of original entry and the numbers altered, and it was subsequently found that in the statement sent, of the deposit in question, to the Assayer, it was numbered 100 instead of 98, and when returned, the number 100 was changed, by the Weigher, to 98. - This alteration of books and documents shows an unpardonable carelessness in the Weigher, but I cannot see how it could serve him, if it were his intention to commit a fraud.

The Weigher still insisted that the coins had been melted for assay, yet "he offered to make up the deficiency." Mr. Bradford agreed with the Weigher, yet offered to give Mr. Maxwell an official letter removing all censure from him. Dr. Norton subsequently, by assaying the bullion on hand, became convinced that the Mexican



dollars had not been melted, — I suppose by not finding any bars of the Mexican Standard.

It thus appears, so far as Mr. Maxwell's statement is to be relied upon, that about \$200 of coins have disappeared, in the hands of a Clerk who has tampered with the books and documents entrusted to him.

But it is also represented that this Clerk is sustained by the Superintendent. It seems improper therefore to take any other step in the matter at present, than to propose a series of questions on the subject to this officer, and this I shall do immediately. I have deemed it my duty, however, to lay the case before you without delay; and shall be glad to have your advice with regard to it, if you consider it necessary to take any measures before Mr. Bradford is heard from.

Mr. Maxwell speaks of the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint as incompetent to <sup>efficiently</sup> fill the duties of his office. Having heard this complaint before, I wrote to Mr. Bradford on the subject, and I send herewith extracts from his answer, which I then considered satisfactory.

Very respectfully,

to/ Hon. Levi Woodbury, } Your faithful servant,  
Secretary of Treasury. } R. M. Patterson,  
Director.



(Copy)

38

Branch Mint of the U. S.,

New Orleans, April 24, 1839.

Doctor R. M. Patterson, }  
Director of the U. S. Mint. }

Sir,

I am under the necessity of making known to you a serious difficulty which has occurred this morning in the Mint, - and request your opinion, as upon it rests my determination of remaining here or not. - On the 16th inst., two deposits were made; - the first deposit two numbers, one of hammered & the other of French crowns, - the last deposit Mexican dollars, supposed to be about two hundred. - The first deposit (one no. of 321 ozs. & the other of 110 ozs.) was melted, but the Mexican coins were retained by the Treasurer to be reported on without melting, agreeably to an understanding with the Superintendent, (who is the Acting Treasurer,) and who informed me that it was consistent with the views of the Assayer, - the quality having been fully ascertained, having previously melted a large number of small deposits of Mex. coins, and also as it was the usage of the principal Mint. I had received some bullion from the Weigher the day these deposits were made and had been in the prac-



vice of receiving them as soon as reported, that I might use them with the Clippings, being out of bullion. - When I again received bullion from the Weigher, which was in a few days after the above, I found among the Assayer's reports one of Number 98 corresponding in weight, name, date, and kind of coin to the deposit of Mexican Coin referred to, which had been retained by the Treasurer as above mentioned: - I remarked to the Weigher that No. 98 was not among the parcels of bullion delivered at that time, - he said I had it and went off. - After convincing myself that it was not the case, I informed the Treasurer of it and refused to take the bullion then in the weigh-room, until the difficulty was adjusted. On examination of the weigh-book I found that some of the depositor's names had been removed by taking out two pages and the numbers altered in such a way as to produce the greatest confusion. I immediately requested of the Superintendent that an investigation be made before all the officers; knowing that if left to himself it would be passed by without any action. - Mr. Bradford agreed to my request, but postponed it until the following day: On the following morning I called on him but he positively refused to have any of the officers present after consulting with Dr. Hart, who declined having any thing to do with it; I then proposed that Mr. Gordon be present, but that



he also refused. - We then commenced an examination of the books, and the bullion on hand, also the person who melts the deposits. - The Weigher still insisted that the deposit in question had been melted & assayed, but offered to make up the deficiency. Mr. Bradford was determined to sustain him although the leaves had been torn out of the book of original entries, the numbers altered, and the young man who melts the deposits was positive that number 98 had not been melted, not only having a distinct recollection of no such deposit being sent out, but keeping a memorandum on a slate in the melting room of number & date of the deposits melted. As the Assayer said he had not reported on any deposit not melted & the report of the Assayer lay before me, I must confess I was brought to my wits end. - Mr. Bradford then offered to give me an official letter to satisfy me and to remove all censure, altho he believed the deposit melted & assayed, but in some way lost. - a letter of that kind might have satisfied me twelve months ago, but I have seen so much of this kind of work in the Mint, that I was determined not to let it pass so easily. - In the evening Mr. Bradford informed me that Dr. Short had made some investigation by assaying the bullion on hand &c, and was satisfied I was correct in what I contended for, that the bullion had not



been melted. As the matter weighed a good deal on my mind, the following morning I was induced to examine more closely the assayer's reports, and found the clue to the whole affair. The numbers had been changed by the weigher to answer to the nos. on the weigh book - No. 100 had been changed to 98 - the deposit in dispute - he had filled up a blank with the name of depositor, weight & kind of coin corresponding to the deposit No. 98, but numbered it 100 & when returned altered it to 98, I saw another number altered but was prevented from investigating any further. Mr. Bradford still sustained the weigher saying that the alteration of numbers had nothing to do with the assayer's reports - although it is well known that the assayer's register must correspond to the register of the Treasurer in number, and also with the weigh book & Melted & Refined's books: I have stated the matter to you briefly, not being able to give you on paper the impressions that the strange conduct of the Superintendent in this matter has made on my mind - I can have but one opinion in regard to the weigher & that is, that he intended to defraud, which in an unguarded moment I told him. Our Treasurer is unfit for his office & it is altogether impos-



CONF 38

lible that any amount of business can be  
done with such a Treasurer. I am confi-  
dent no account has been opened for me,  
for I have asked twenty times for a settlement  
& have always been put off. There has not a  
warrant passed between me & the Treasurer  
since last August, and that one was not cor-  
rect. I could fill ten pages with such state-  
ments, but let this suffice for the present.

Remain your friend & obt. Servt.,

(Signed) Jas. Maxwell,  
M. & R.



M 39

Extract from a letter of David Bradford, Esq.,  
Superintendent of New Orleans Br. Mint, to the  
Director of the Mint of the United States.

"U. S. Br. Mint New Orleans"

February 18, 1839,

~~"Sir, \*~~ \* \* \* \*

"You enquire 'If your Treasurer  
an officer competent to the important trust which  
he holds?' I have to inform you that his ac-  
counts to the 30th June last, were adjusted at the  
Treasury Department as appears by the enclosed  
copy of a letter to him from the Comptroller dated  
December 27th, 1838, and the enclosed copy of the  
communication from the Treasurer to me, to the  
accuracy of which I feel bound from my intimate  
knowledge of the facts, to add my most un-  
qualified assurance, will afford you authentic in-  
formation, and furnishes the fullest answer to  
your inquiry. For my own part I am perfectly  
satisfied that there is no derangement in the  
Treasurer's office, and no need of any reform.  
At this time he has but one Clerk, Mr. Dimitry,  
a gentleman fully competent, very attentive and  
industrious, and as soon as I deem the business



of the institution requires it, I shall appoint another. The only clerks appointed by me of my own selection, Mr. Dimity, Mr. Durel, and Mr. Lassere were as highly competent as any individuals to be found in the Union. The two last resigned in consequence of the inadequacy of salary. Mr. Lassere at present fills a lucrative and honorable employment in the Legislature of the State."

Letter from Edmund Forstall, Treasurer of New Orleans Br. Mint, to the Superintendent, referred to in the above.

"U. S. Br. Mint, New Orleans,  
Treasurer's office, Feby 16, 1839

Sir,

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of a written communication from you, in which you request me to state in writing

1. Whether an Annual Settlement of Accounts has been made this year between the Treasurer and Melted & Refiner?
2. Whether the same was satisfactory or not?
3. Whether the Warrants between the Melted and Refiner & the Treasurer, have been made up from the Statements of the former alone, or from what source?



4. What is the state of Accounts in this Office - What ones, if any, have not yet been opened?

5. Particularly Whether the Bullion Account between the Minter & Refiner & the Treasurer has been opened?

6. Generally the Condition of the Office.

7. That the above inquiries are to be considered as made also in relation to the Accounts and transactions between the Treasurer & Coiner, and to answer you at the earliest convenience.

1. The Annual Settlement of Accounts with the Minter & Refiner was made on the 22<sup>d</sup> January last.

2. I have no reason to believe that said Settlement was otherwise than satisfactory, as it has received the Signature of both parties.

3. I am not aware that any Warrants have been drawn up from the statements of the Minter & Refiner alone, but the Accounts have been compared before full Settlement.

4. There is no irregularity or Confusion in the Accounts <sup>in</sup> this Office. The only point omitted is the transfer from the Journal to the Ledger, which transfer has not been made in consequence of the ruling of the Ledger not according with the Specimens ~~sent~~ received from Philadelphia, and your request that the entry should not be made until the arrival of Mr. Spofford, who, however, avowed himself unable to clear up the difficulty.

5. The Bullion Account between the Treasurer, and

including the Minter & Refiner the Account is



Melter & Refiner has been opened & regularly kept, the transfers to the Ledger have not been made for the reasons just stated

6. There is no irregularity in the accounts, or vouchers, or books in this office.

7. The foregoing replies to your enquiries relative to the transaction of business with the Melter & Refiner and the state of accounts are equally applicable to those with the Coiner."

"Respectfully,

(Signed) Edm. Forstall  
Treas. Br. Mint."

To David Bradford, Esq. }  
Supt. Br. Mint. }



M

(40)

Mint of the United States.  
May 9th, 1839.

Sir,

I send herewith a copy of a letter  
written by me this morning to the  
Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint.  
The condition of things at that in-  
stitution gives me much uneasiness.  
I consider it a bad feature in the  
transaction that Mr. Bradford has  
not seen proper to write to me on the  
occasion.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

Write to Bradford, that the  
Director after meeting at Philadelphia

(To)

(Hon. Levi Woodbury, Sec. of Treasury, New York)

to investigate the matter fully. I trust that  
you will give him prompt & effect and  
in meeting the point. The amount in



double to the very small - basis is  
highly important to the character of  
the establishment, that the public  
truth should be elicited - &

Every superior <sup>of every</sup> ~~renewed~~ <sup>renewed</sup> from  
any of the officers - who are  
retained. It must be apparent to you  
as well as to the public - that

Lyons & Co.,  
possibility of promptitude in all  
connected with the Union are  
indispensable to secure public  
confidence & meet the  
expectations of the country  
(11) to its safety & utility

W



*M* (Copy. 41)

Mint of the United States,  
May 9th, 1839.

Sir,

I have this moment received a letter from Mr. Maxwell, of the 27th ult., giving me further details with regard to the transaction connected with the deposit of Mexican Dollars, of the 16th of April. I do not find, in this communication, any thing bearing very particularly upon the investigation requested of you in my letter of the 7th inst., unless it may be that some explanation is given as to the confusion among the numbers, and that it leaves me still in doubt whether the 200 Mexican Dollars were really missing from the Treasurer's vault. There is, however, a circumstance stated in Mr. Maxwell's letter which has excited my indignation, and to which I must pray your immediate attention. It is that a note, of which a copy is subjoined, has been sent by Mr. Dimity, (the Clerk of the weigh-room,) threatening a personal attack upon the Mel-



er & Refiner. If Mr. Maxwell thought he  
had reason to suspect any one attached  
to the Mint, it was his duty to make his  
suspicions known, and, if the individual  
thus suspected, has dared while the matter  
was under official investigation, to threaten  
a resort to brute force for the maintaining  
of his character, I am sure you will see  
the propriety of dismissing him instantly  
from your employment.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
(Signed) R. M. Patterson  
Director.

To / David Bradford, Esq.  
Supt. Br. Mint.  
New Orleans.



(Copy.)

To Jas. Maxwell,  
Sir.

"You have accused me of fraud - The cause of your enmity towards me, is the little regard I have paid to the numerous hints & suggestions on your part to subserve your vile purposes. Your conduct deserves chastisement. - I shall try to administer it - Whenever & wherever I may meet, out of the precincts of the Mint, it is my firm determination to attack you - I warn you to be on your guard."

"M. D. Dimitry."



WPA

Mint of the United States  
Sept. 4. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ult., enclosing a series of charges against the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Dahlouga, presented by Mr. G. H. Cessna, Postmaster at that place. I have complied with your instructions by requiring of Dr. Singleton his explanations as to these charges, and if I do not find them satisfactory, I shall take the further steps pointed out by you.

It may not be improper to mention that these charges come from an individual known to ~~entertain~~ entertain a personal enmity against the accused.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,

Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of Treasury. }



43  
Sept 7, 1859

Dr Sir

I am very sorry to inform  
you that Mr. Sykes (Clerk of the N C  
Branch Court) is very low with the  
Yellow Fever and is not expected to  
live through the day.

I have before advised of the  
death of Mr. Maxwell. Matters relating  
the New Treasury has not yet arrived,  
there is great need of some person in  
whom you have confidence to take charge  
of the affairs of the N C Branch Court  
without delay. I recommend Joseph  
Mc Kennedy Esq a Notary & Resident  
of this City to be appointed Superintendent  
of the place of Mr. Bradford, Mr. K



now leave the City, is a Man of family  
of property & Member of the Legislature  
of this State, is and always has been  
a warm friend of the administration &  
since the death of Mr. Maxwell is the  
best man in this State to perform  
the duties of Superintendent

While visiting Cincinnati  
it is to be regretted that some business  
in the State had not been referred to  
Treasurer his action in the sale  
of the <sup>political</sup> opponents of the Administration  
has made Mr. Cornsack all  
make a faithful and complete  
report

Very Respectfully I am  
Yours

It is in Woodbury  
Sect of the Treasury  
Jacob Packer



Adly rpb & nrged by  
another letter to him  
of m. By lms death  
The name. Given left him  
for his children as a  
second agree of one  
the less probably  
and



W

44

Mint of the United States,  
May 23, 1839.

Sir,

In compliance with the instructions given in your letter of the 20th inst., I have written to the U. S. District Attorney at New Orleans, to engage him to procure and communicate the information required to enable the Department to come to a proper decision as to the difficulties which have occurred in the Branch Mint, - as to the qualifications & efficiency of its present officers, - and those of the individuals recommended to succeed the Officers whose removal is urged by the Superintendent. I have sent to the District Attorney Copies of such parts of my correspondence as seem to me to have an important bearing upon the matter submitted to his inquiry. I am happy that you have ordered this investigation, and hope it may lead to such measures as shall establish peace & efficiency in the New Orleans Mint.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.

See another letter to be written to him today.



M

45

Mint of the United States.

May 23d, 1839.

Sir, I sent, by yesterday's mail, two  
pairs of half-dime dies, and will  
send tomorrow two pairs of dime dies,  
for the Branch Mint at New Or-  
leans, which I pray you to forward  
under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant

R. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

Attended to forwarding them

W

To / Hon. Lewis Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury. }



M 46  
Mint of the United States.  
May 25th, 1839.

Sir,  
I have received, to-day and yesterday, long communications from the Officers of the New Orleans Mint, on the subject of the unhappy differences existing among them. The two parties differ essentially in the views which they present, and thus demonstrate the necessity of the impartial investigation which has been ordered under your instructions. Until the report of the District Attorney is received, we can have no certainty of the true condition of things at the New Orleans Mint, and I have deemed it unnecessary therefore to send you copies of the ex-parte statements which have been laid before me.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury. }



47  
Mint of the United States,  
May 27th, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th, with a copy of the application of the Superintendent of the New-Orleans Mint for an additional public deposit of \$40,000, & of your reply to this application.

The New Orleans Mint has acted imprudently in confining its coinage so exclusively to dimes and half-dimes. The number of pieces struck, and consequently the labor done, at present, is quite respectable, but the value coined is too small to keep up with the deposits. I have repeatedly urged a larger coinage of half-dollars, and this must be done. Very numerous deposits are made of paltry amounts, to be coined into dimes & half-dimes, and I understand the motive to be that these coins pass currently at New Orleans for eighths & sixteenths of a dollar.

It is my opinion that, at least in the present state of the New Orleans Mint, no more coins should be transferred to it from this Mint. By striking half-dollars they will find \$40,000 a trifling sum to coin. Our operations here, moreover, are upon so large a scale, that we cannot suffer a reduction of our government deposits without



interrupting injuriously the system of prompt pay-  
ments, now so satisfactorily established. - The  
deposits, this month, of gold alone, amount to more  
than \$380,000.

You ask if I do not think the bond of the  
Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint should be in-  
creased, as the deposit with him is so large. I  
would state in reply, first, that, as our mints are  
organized, a fraud to any considerable amount is  
almost impossible without a collusion among the  
officers, and, secondly, that the sum of \$10,000, for  
which the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint is bound,  
is the same as that established by law for the surety  
of the Treasurer of this Mint, where the deposits  
are vastly larger.

I send herewith a copy of a letter received,  
this morning, from Mr. Bradford. The condition  
of things, at the New Orleans Mint, is mortifying  
indeed. I am glad that it is put in a course  
of impartial investigation.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. W. Patterson,

Director.

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.



P.S. - You will observe that the letter  
of Mr. Bradford is in reply to mine of  
the 9th, of which I sent you a copy.

R. M. P.



Copy M

48

W. S. B. Mint New Orleans,  
May 19th, 1839.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 9th inst. in which you observe, "If Mr. Maxwell thought he had reason to suspect any one attached to the Mint, it was his duty to make his suspicions known, and if the individual thus suspected has done, while the matter was under official investigation, to threaten a resort to brute force, for the maintaining of his character, I am sure you will see the propriety of dismissing him instantly from your employment."

Under the view of the case which it appears you have been induced to take from the representations in Mr. Maxwell's letters, I fully agree with you that the immediate dismissal of Mr. Dimetzy would be proper, but permit me, Sir, to present what I believe to be a correct view of the case, and I am satisfied you will entertain a different opinion from the one you have expressed.

In all the conversations I have had with Mr. Maxwell on this unpleasant subject, I have uniformly told him that it was my deliberate opinion that Mr. Dimetzy was as honest as any man that breathes, and that as far as my examination of the case had gone, I was under the impression that the deposit of Damian



Cases had been melted and assayed. The documents I forwarded you on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. will afford you a knowledge of most of the facts that produced in me this opinion.

Under these circumstances and aware that Mr. Dimetree was sustained as far as his character was in question by Mr. Forstall & Dr. Stort as well as myself, it was Mr. Maxwell who prejudged the case whilst it was under investigation and directly charged Mr. Dimetree in the Whip-room with fraud in presence of Mr. Forstall, Mr. Parker, Mr. Ducoing & myself, & repeated it several times - exciting the indignation of every person who heard him thus wantonly attempting to destroy the character of a gentleman for life. I assume you that no gentleman can receive such an insult in this City or in any of the Southern States, and maintain his character as an honest man & his rank in society without resenting it personally & promptly. Mr. Dimetree was restrained at the moment by respect for the place where the circumstances occurred and after waiting a day, giving an opportunity for a withdrawal of the insult, he addressed Mr. Maxwell the note of which you have received a copy & in which you will observe the chastisement threatened was to be without the precincts of the Mint, where the distinctions between officers & Clerks do not exist.

Mr. Maxwell sent Mr. Dimetree bound over to keep



the peace, Mr. Forrestall, our Treasurer going his security in the Bond, & Mr. Dimety having no other remedy left him has sued Mr. Maxwell for slander and the question of fraud will, I hope, soon be determined before an impartial judicial tribunal before which officers & clerks stand as freemen & equals.

Mr. Maxwell performed his duty in making known to me his suspicions but I did not agree with him and I consider his conduct outrageous in charging Mr. Dimety with fraud under the circumstances, to wit, just after I had expressed to him the impression the investigation I had made & was still making had produced on my mind. I was engaged in writing my opinion on this question of the Panian Calas deposit when Mr. Maxwell came into my office and after hearing my frank & undisguised sentiments, dared to insult me grossly by remarking emphatically that I "must be convinced" that he was right, & intimating that I was sacrificing justice & truth for the sake of Mr. Dimety. Indeed, sir, his conduct in the Mint has been such as to disgust every gentleman who has had any business with him and every workman in his employment, & entirely destroyed my confidence in him and I am convinced that while he remains there will be neither peace nor harmony in this Br. Mint.

Very respectfully, your faithful servant

Dr. R. M. Patterson,  
Director of the Mint &c.  
Philadelphia

(Signed) David Bradford,  
Supt.



Wm

49

Mint of the United States,  
May 29th, 1839.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 27th, with the appended extract respecting the officers of the New Orleans Branch Mint. I regret to find this extract so strongly marked with sectional feeling on the part of the writer, while he accuses two of the officers of the Mint with the same feeling, and with permitting it to influence them in the performance of their duties. I cannot join in considering them possessed of so contemptible a motive. The writer of the extract says he "feels convinced that now but men identified with the institutions and population of the South should be selected to hold offices in the Branch Mint". I think it infinitely more important that they should be men whose habits & pursuits have familiarized them with the workshop and the laboratory, who will attend to their official duties, and will not meddle with the institutions or population of any section. Of the candidates named by Mr. Bradford to succeed the officers whom he



he wished removed, one is a European and the other a Philadelphian.

I am utterly embarrassed as to the question of right and wrong in this controversy. I think it not improbable that Mr. Maxwell may have exhibited a domineering and unaccommodating spirit, which may make him a disagreeable associate; and Mr. Tyler may be slow in his operations, - unwilling to resort to temporary expedients and thus delaying work from the desire to do things thoroughly, - perhaps also querulous and impracticable in his temper. The investigations on foot may establish all this, But that these officers embarrass the operations of the Mint purposely from political or sectional motives, as has been insinuated, is utterly incredible. I have full reliance on the fidelity and the stem integrity of these men; but I do not, on that account, assert that they should be retained in their places. A Separation seems to be inevitable, - at least between two of the officers. Mr. Bradford & Mr. Maxwell cannot continue together. Let the report of the District Attorney decide where the blow shall fall.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec'y of Treasury.



M

50

Mint of the United States,  
June 4, 1839.

Sir,

The box from the New Orleans Mint, containing Assay-pieces, and forwarded by you on the 31st ult., has come safely to hand.

I have numerous communications, from the officers of that Mint, on the subject of the existing difficulties, but as the matter is submitted to the investigation of Mr. Sitell, I do not deem it necessary to trouble you further with this matter, at present.

At the request of Mr. Bradford, I sent a gentleman from this place to act as Treasurer's Clerk, and have charge of the Treasurer's vaults, and of the Strigh-room. I thought myself fortunate in being able to engage the services of a Mr. Spofford, a man of excellent character, and an expert accountant. He was detained, for some time, at the Mint here, and instructed in the whole system of our operations as connected, not only with the place he was to fill, but with the Treasurer's department generally. Mr. Spofford was at first well received at the New Orleans Mint, but asserts that the Superintendent soon showed marked jealousy with regard to him, and, finally, he ordered



that all the coins should be taken from his vault, and put under the charge of another Clerk.

This act gave rise to suspicions in the mind of Mr. Spofford, (I am presenting his account of the matter,) and he appealed to the Treasurer. Indeed his conduct, on the occasion, was no doubt offensive to the Superintendent, and being considered by him as an exhibition of "insufferable insubordination", Mr. Spofford was dismissed from his situation.

Mr. Spofford has returned to Philadelphia, and I had a personal interview with him yesterday. He does not hesitate to express his conviction that the Superintendent and his Clerks are not worthy of trust, and that the Cash and Bullion account of the Mint cannot bear investigation. It must be observed, however, that he has been aggrieved, and he has not certainly presented to me any evidence to confirm his suspicions. As to the Treasurer, he says he is an honest man, but a mere cipher in his office, entirely unacquainted with the whole business entrusted to him. If this be so, it is a grievous evil. The Treasurer has not only a great trust committed directly to himself, but he is the check officer for all the bullion operations of the Mint. It is absolutely dangerous that such a station as he



is called upon to fill should be made a sinecure. I hope that the capabilities of this officer will be closely inquired into by the District Attorney.

I subjoin a copy of a certificate given to Mr. Spofford, by the Treasurer. It is a singular document to be given to a gentleman dismissed, as Mr. Spofford was, from the Treasurer's own department.

Very respectfully,

To/ Your faithful servant,

Am. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

(Copy.)

"I deem it an act of Justice to Mr. W. E. Spofford to state my full and entire confidence in his abilities and integrity, and believe him well qualified for the duties of the office to which he was appointed under me. My confidence in him has never for a moment been shaken; and for the short time he was in my office his duties were performed to my entire satisfaction: I made no charge against him, nor have I any to make. His dismissal was the official act of the Superintendent, which, I understand, I have no authority to oppose".

(Signed) Edm. Forstall,

New Orleans, April 18, 1839.

Treas. Br. Mint,  
(N.O.)



57

Mint of the United States  
June 11<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir,

Your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> ult., enclosing a communication from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, and an account for extra work done in the building for that Mint, was duly received, but I was not able to answer it for want of the necessary information, and even now my reply must be a very imperfect one.

Soon after I entered upon my present office, the plans for the Branch Mint buildings were submitted to a careful examination, and many defects were found in them which it was absolutely necessary to correct. I observed, moreover, that the buildings, as planned and contracted for, were sufficiently large to afford dwellings for the Superintendents, and, at New Orleans, for the Coiner and Melter also. This object I thought of great importance, and I still think so. With the principal offices residing in the building, the Mint is more secure, and the business more conveniently and therefore more effectually attended to. I accordingly suggested the necessary changes and the plans were submitted to you. That for the New



Orleans Mint received your approbation on the 28th. of December 1835. The principal change proposed was in the Eastern Wing, which, at that time, had not been commenced. In the original plan, this was to be fitted up with groin arches, and with furnaces, all of which were very expensive. In the altered plan, these were to be all dispensed with, and the wing to be fitted up as a mere residence for the Superintendent. The plans were exhibited and explained here to Gen. Martin Gordon, the Commissioner for the erection of this Mint, and we believed our views to be perfectly understood and approved by him. They were such as would evidently have diminished the cost of the building; I was therefore, utterly astonished at finding a bill of extra charges, for these alterations from the original plan, amounting to more than \$16,000. I have today, for the first time, an explanation of this extraordinary circumstance. I am informed, by a gentleman from New Orleans, that the East Wing was executed according to both the plans. That is, was first fitted up according to the rejected plan, with groin arches, with furnaces, &c., and then, after Mr. Bradford came to New Orleans, altered into a dwelling house. This was a most strange and extraordinary course, and may well account for a part, at least, of the heavy charges now brought



against the New Orleans Mint. +

What the government ought to do, under these circumstances, it is difficult to suggest; but it seems to me that there is now no course left but submission to the charges made. This business was entirely entrusted to Gen. Gordon, and he has approved the account rendered. If the government has any remedy, it can only be against Gen. Gordon, and he can only be accused of having misunderstood his instructions, since his high character puts any other explanation out of the question.

It is, I presume, impossible to pay this bill out of the funds already appropriated for the New Orleans Mint building; and in this case, it will be necessary to apply to Congress for a new appropriation, for the express purpose.

Very respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

Write a proper letter on the funds  
in reply to Mr. Bradford  
and send him

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sec. of Treasury.

I return the account, and the  
letter of Mr. Bradford.



Mr  
McK

(52)

Mint of the United States.

June 21st, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to return to you, herewith, the bond of Edmund Forrester Esq., as Treasurer of the New Orleans Branch Mint, with my approval endorsed, as required by law.

I have not yet received any direct communication from Mr. Shill, but I know that his investigation is going forward.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

D. W. Patterson,

(Director.)

Enclosed herewith for my approval

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



M  
53  
M  
CRO

Mint of the United States,  
July 9th, 1839.

Sir,

The District Attorney for New Orleans has sent me a copy of his letter to you of the 24th ult., in which he points out the necessity of appointing a new Treasurer for the New Orleans Mint. I have long had suspicions of the incompetency of Mr. Forstall, - though his integrity and good intentions have never been called in question. In a letter to Mr. Bradford, of the 5th of February last, I write as follows:

"You seem to have been very unfortunate in your Clerks, and Mr. Maxwell, in a letter of the 24th ult., says that 'he has never been able to have a satisfactory settlement, - that the warrant, between the Treasurer & himself have been made up from his statements alone, - and that not an account as yet has been opened'; - this last meaning, I presume, the Cullion account between him and the Treasurer. If this be so, your treasury department must be in a state requiring immediate reform. Let me then pray you to tell me frankly its true condition, and the means which you have taken or propose to take to put it in order. Is your Treasurer an officer



competent to the important trust which he holds; are his clerks attentive and industrious men of business? If the Affairs of this Department of your Mint are deranged, and you desire to have the whole matter put on a footing satisfactory to yourself & me, I will offer you a sure means of doing so, by sending to you, for this purpose, one of the officers of this Mint, Mr. DuBois, who is thoroughly acquainted with the whole system of Mint Accounts, and whose manner, I can assure you, will not give offence. I pray you to communicate to me, with the confidence and frankness which I hope will ever characterise our intercourse, your opinions and wishes as to the subjects of this letter."

To this part of my letter, I received the following reply from Mr. Bradford, under date of February, 1839 - (day omitted:)

"You enquire, 'Is your Treasurer an officer competent to the important trust which he holds?'" I have to inform you that his accounts to the 30th June last were adjusted at the Treasury Department as appears by the enclosed copy of a letter to him from the Comptroller dated December 27th, 1838. And the enclosed copy of the communication from the Treasurer to me, to the accuracy of which, I feel bound from my intimate knowledge of the facts



to add my most unqualified assurance, will afford you authentic information, and furnishes the fullest answer to your enquiry. For my own part I am perfectly satisfied that there is no derangement in the Treasurer's office, and no need of any reform. At this time he has but one clerk, Mr. Dimitry, a gentleman fully competent, very attentive and industrious, and as soon as I deem the business of the institution requires it, I shall appoint another. The only clerks appointed by me of my own selection, Mr. Dimitry, Mr. Durel, & Mr. Ladero, were as highly competent as any individuals to be found in the Union. The two last resigned in consequence of the inadequacy of the salary. Mr. Ladero at present fills a lucrative & honorable employment in the Legislature of the State.

This explicit justification of the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, and his department, given by the head of the Institution, could not be received by me as otherwise than satisfactory; and as my proposition to send Mr. DuBois, was not then accepted, it was not renewed. This I now regret; for I believe that he could have prevented the confusion which now exists in the New Orleans Mint, at least so far as the accounts are concerned.

In a letter to you of the 4th ult., I mentioned that Mr. Spofford, a clerk who had been dis-



missed from the New Orleans Mint by Mr. Bradford, had stated that the Treasurer was "an honest man, but a man ciphered in his office, entirely unacquainted with the whole business entrusted to him." And I then remarks: "If this be so, it is a grievous evil. The treasurer has not only a great trust committed directly to himself, but he is the Check officer for all the Bullion operations of the Mint. It is absolutely dangerous, that such a station as he is called upon to fill should be made a sinecure."

Such being my sentiments, I need not now say that I agree with Mr. Sidell as to the necessity of appointing a new Treasurer for the New Orleans Mint. The character which he gives of Mr. Cannack seems to be entirely satisfactory, and I hope that it will prove so to the President.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson

(Director)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

At 20 July 1838

At New

under certain action

Make out a copy of this  
and send it to the  
young of the  
I have just  
been named  
scrapped on the 20th July 1838



M 54  
Mint of the United States,  
July 5th, 1839.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 2d inst., with the enclosed copy of Mr. Bradford's letter to you of the 28th of June.

The protesting of a Mint Certificate for neglect of prompt payment is a new measure, and I doubt its legality. I send herewith one of these certificates, and you will observe that no time is named for the payment. I would respectfully suggest the propriety of consulting Mr. Gilpin as to this question, which seems likely to become an important one to the New Orleans Mint.

I have a letter from Mr. Maxwell, Mitter & Refiner of the New Orleans Branch, of the 26th ult., in which he states, that "the investigation into the affairs of the Mint has taken such a wide range that he thinks it will be a month, if not two, before I get the report, although the Commission is in session about six hours nearly every day." He says that Mr. Slidell conducts the examination with great skill and impartiality. He



also states that Mr. Bradford, at the commencement, proposed to suspend the operations of the Mint, pending the investigation, and repeated his proposition again, last evening, but was resisted, in both instances, by Mr. Sidel, and the operations are therefore continued, and, so far as he is informed, to public satisfaction. This last remark is strangely at variance with Mr. Bradford's letter, and with the fact of the protest, which cannot have been known to Mr. Maxwell.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To/

Mr. Levi Woodbury,

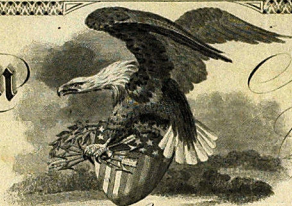
Secretary of Treasury. }



MINT CERTIFICATE

Silver Bullion

Nº



Mint of the United States  
Philadelphia 18

I acknowledge to have received on the instant from  
a depositor for coinage of **SILVER BULLION** of the value of  
dollars  $\frac{100}{100}$   
to be delivered to the said depositor, or order, in Silver Coins of  
the United States, agreeably to Law and the usage of the  
Mint.

\$

Treasurer.



*M*

*(55)*

Mint of the United States,  
July 31. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor  
to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
inst. with the accompanying package, containing a series  
of the coins of the Netherlands, sent by Mr. Vandenboeck,  
deputy Consul of the United States, at Amsterdam. -- I  
had, before, received a letter from this gentleman, announc-  
ing this remittance, and conveying valuable information  
respecting the coinage of the Netherlands, in answer to  
a series of questions addressed to him by me, on the  
22<sup>d</sup> of April last.

Very Respectfully,

your faithful servant

R. W. Patterson,

Director &c.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
Secy of Treasury }



Aug. 27th  
 I have just received  
 to you the same  
 from the New Orleans  
 Nov, you are  
 requested to enclose  
 to him with facility  
 instructions in this kind  
 56  
 I thank you  
 I enclose you  
 his paper  
 of my collection  
 her account books  
 proper advice in  
 the number of the  
 to you will please  
 refer it to return

Mr. Sidell, the U. S. District  
 Attorney at New Orleans, who was charged with the  
 investigation of the affairs of the Mint at that place,  
 arrived here yesterday. He has completed his laborious  
 investigation, but has not yet prepared his report. He  
 spent several hours in examining into our mode of  
 transacting business, and keeping accounts, — an inquiry  
 which has an important bearing upon the opinion which  
 he is called upon to give. He says it may still be a  
 fortnight before his report will be ready. He has returned  
 to New York.

I received, on the 29th inst. a package  
 under your frank, containing remarks on the New Orleans  
 Investigation, by Jacob Barker Esq., the counsel employed  
 by Messrs. Maxwell & Tyler. This paper I have given  
 into the hands of Mr. Sidell.

Very respectfully,  
 your faithful servant  
 R. W. Patterson,  
 Director.

Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
 Secy of Treasury.



W (37)  
Mint of the United States,  
August 6th, 1839.

Sir,

I received, this morning, your letter of the 2'd inst., with the Commission, sent therewith, for Storace C. Cammack, as Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New-Orleans.

This Commission I shall forward immediately, with the proper instructions. I consider the necessity of the change urgent, and no circumstance is known to me that can render proper a delay in removing Mr. Forstall. The transfer of the office from the present incumbent to Mr. Cammack will make a thorough settlement of the Cash and Bullion accounts imperative, and it is certainly, in the present condition of things at the New Orleans Mint, exceedingly desirable.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Tattersall,  
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.



(58)

Mint of the United States,  
August 7, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., transmitting a copy of a letter to you from Jacob Barker, Esq., regarding a supposed fraud said to have been committed at the New Orleans Mint, & I have written to the Superintendent of that Mint to ask from him an explanation of the matter.

It may not be improper, however, in the mean while, to state what has occurred with regard to the door-keeper referred to in Mr. Barker's letter.

On the 7th of May last, the Coiner of the New Orleans Mint wrote to me a letter, marked Confidential, from which the following paragraph is an extract.

"I have been presented with a list of deficiencies in boxes of coins counted and delivered by me to the Treasurer and recounted by Mr. Bradfords men in which many boxes of 10,000 + 15,000 pieces proved short by 10-15-20- + even 30 pieces. This I said was out of the question as I could not make such mistakes, and I heard no more of the list. I afterwards recounted by myself & my son ten boxes of 5,000 dimes each, and finding them all exactly



right, they were recounted again in the Treasurer's office, when many of them came out a few pieces wanting: - one box in particular was, 2 pieces short. It was then at my suggestion given again into the hands of the same individual to count over, in order to try him, (he supposing it another box,) and it came out 3 pieces short. Other circumstances convinced the Treasurer & Mr. Dinitz that the man alluded to was not trust-worthy, - in short that he was a thief, and refused afterwards to allow him to handle the bullion or coins. Still however he is retained as gold keeper. This is the man who had been (long before) represented to myself & Mr. Bradford as a dangerous man, believed to be a thief, and I had kept him as much as possible out of my rooms, and had begged the Superintendent to get rid of him."

In reply to Mr. Tyler I stated that I could not receive any such communication as confidential, and I accordingly immediately wrote to the Superintendent the following letter:

"In a letter received this morning, [May 16th] from Mr. Tyler, a case is stated which seems to me to require your particular attention. It exhibits the strongest circumstantial evidence that one of the Mint men, still kept in employment, has been guilty of purloining coins while engaged in counting them."



This is a very grievous offence, being not a simple breach of trust, but a felony, punishable by imprisonment at hard labor under the act of 1835, and formerly, under the Act of 1792, incurring the penalty of death. I beg you for such information, as to this case, as may show your impressions as to the grounds of suspicion, and the reasons that induced you to allow the individual to remain in the Mint. Under my obligation of "general supervision," I feel it my duty to ask a report from you as to this matter."

On the 3d of June, I received a letter from Mr. Bradford, under date of the 26th of May, from which the following is an extract:

"I received your letter of the 16th inst., day before yesterday, in which you mention that you had received a letter from Mr. Tyler accusing one of the men employed by me in this Br. Mint of forging coins. It did receive my particular attention on the first intimation of it to me. You are under the impression that the accusation is supported by the strongest circumstantial evidence. Ex parte <sup>testimony</sup> ~~and~~ ~~and~~ often appears decisive of the character & fate of an individual. In every instance in which Mess. Tyler & Maxwell have brought charges against Officers in this Br. Mint, or individuals whom I have appointed or employed, I have been under the necessity of differing with them. In the case of the individual



to whom you allude, I am as firmly convinced of his innocence as Mr. Tyler can possibly be of his guilt. As you request me to state the reasons that induce me to allow the individual to remain in this Br. Mint, I feel it my duty promptly to communicate them to you, fully recognising your right to demand any information on any subject connected with this Br. Mint that it is in my power to give.

I appointed Mr. S. C. Primond, Porter, in this Br. Mint, from a full conviction that he was well qualified for the office. Mr. Tyler took a dislike to him at once, as he has done to every fourth man. He soon informed me that a bricklayer named Riley could satisfy me he was an improper character to be in the establishment. I found from Riley that he knew nothing himself against Primond; as he refused to others, and particularly the Capt. of the Steamer Commerce. This gentleman, Capt. Mayett, called on me & stated that he had long known Primond, had had him as <sup>clerk</sup> second, on his boat, had entrusted him with the collection of freight bills in the city & elsewhere to the amount of upwards of \$20,000, had always found him faithful & diligent, and had the utmost confidence in him. This Capt. Mayett is now



*Don't*      38

Inspector of Steam Boats under appointment of the Dist. Court of the U.S., in this City, and I find is by all his acquaintances considered a gentleman of the highest character. Mr. Stephens, the principal broker in this City, told me he had known Brimond in Tampico where he was in a responsible situation entrusted with large sums of money and that his character was unimpeachable.

"It is true that in counting the small coins delivered by Mr. Tyler to the Treasurer, he (Brimond) has often reported a deficiency, - but others in the Treasurer's department have made the same report, and so have the Banks when the small coins have been sent to them without having been counted in the Treasurer's office. There is at least as much reason to suppose that errors in counting have been committed in the Coiner's department as in the Treasurer's, and indeed I have had ample proof that Mr. Tyler is not infallible. Deficiencies in weight & quantity of coins that he has delivered have more than once occurred.

I have Mr. Brimond's Bond for \$2,500. Mr. Lobb, a wealthy lawyer of this city and of the highest respectability is his security, and as they were fellow Collegians, he has offered to be his security in the purchase of property for \$30,000."



As the investigation conducted by Mr. Still-  
dell had been ordered before this letter was  
received, nothing more was done in the  
case of Brémont.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson  
Director

To /

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }

Also, please write

take all <sup>the</sup> <sup>possible</sup>

steps to ascertain

if any thing has been

committed - & if any -

Should it prove to be

affairs of the

must be read

by a person



Director

Mr. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

Adopted by the Senate  
taken all <sup>from the</sup> ~~possible~~  
steps to <sup>which may be necessary</sup> ~~ascertain~~  
if any thing has been  
committed - & if any - by whom -

Should it prove to be one of the

officers of the mint ~~in which~~ <sup>where</sup> should the amount

my exemption must be made of him both

by a provision of his merit

W



39  
Mint of the United States,  
August 12. 1839.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 9th inst., requesting me to take all suitable steps respecting the suspected smelting of coins by one of the door-keepers at the New Orleans Mint.

I send subjoined a copy of my letter on the subject to Mr. Bradford, written on receiving yours of the 5th inst. I was sorry to learn, from Mr. Slidell, that he had not entered into the investigation of this affair. It is difficult to know how to proceed against a man attendant at the New Orleans Mint, when he is fully sustained & justified by his Chief Officer there. - At all events, I must await Mr. Bradford's answer to my letter, - unless, indeed, Mr. Slidell's report should lead to a more summary course, in the whole of this matter.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

When is the auditing Slidell's report? Is it him? If so forward it to the Director.



Copy.  
Sir,

"Mint of the United States,  
Aug. 7. 1839."

I send subjoined a copy of a letter to Jacob Barker, Esq., transmitted by him to the Secretary of the Treasury, and also to me. The Secretary instructs me, with regard to it, "to call on the proper officers of the Br. Mint at New Orleans for the necessary explanations," & I have accordingly to request these of you. I am particularly anxious to know how far this accusation may implicate the door-keeper who was entrusted with the counting of coins, and who has been suspected of purloining them. Notwithstanding your letter of the 26th of May, I confess that I still want confidence in this man. The account that has been given to me of his contradictory evidence in the Casas case increases my suspicions; but as the written evidence has not yet been laid before me, I do not mean, by this remark, to give an opinion as to this matter."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,  
(Signed) R. M. Patterson,  
Director."

To/

David Bradford, Esq.,  
Supt. Br. Mint,  
New Orleans. }



M

(60)

Mint of the United States.  
Aug. 9th, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to send you herewith,  
a report of the operations of the Branch  
Mints, for the second quarter of the pre-  
sent year. It has been delayed in  
consequence of my not receiving the  
monthly report of the New Orleans Mint  
for June, until the 5th inst.

You will see that the whole amount  
coined in the Branch Mints during the  
second quarter was \$218,717; the amount  
coined during the first quarter was  
\$134,440.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,

P. M. Tattersall,  
Director.

Prepares a statement of coinage  
at each branch the first  
half of year - to be  
published in the Globe  
W

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



W (61)

Mint of the United States,  
August 15, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith two specimens of a half dollar of a new impression, which I respectfully submit to you for your approbation. It will complete the new series for silver coins, all of which, - if you consent to this coinage of half dollars, - will bear the full length figure of Liberty on the obverse. It is intended to retain the bust of Liberty for the gold coins.

As we have more than \$200,000 worth of silver bullion now to be coined, your early decision is very desirable.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.

You will remark that one of the figures is bright and the other frosted.



Mr. (62)  
Mint of the United States,  
August 23. 1839.

Sir,

I was surprised by the receipt, this morning, of a letter from Storace C. Cammack, Esq., dated at New York. He had just heard, from Mr. Slidell, of his appointment as Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint. In his letter he says: - "I am here to attend to some business which will detain me a short time, - say 10 or 15 days, - after which, or sooner if necessary, I will go on to New Orleans to take charge of the office, and will have the pleasure of seeing you as I pass through Philadelphia."

In my answer, I have urged him to complete his business as early as possible, and to lose no time in entering upon the discharge of his new duties. I have requested him, however, to take the opportunity of visiting this Mint, to make himself acquainted with our system of keeping accounts, and to receive my particular instructions.



as to the course to be pursued by him on  
entering upon his office.

Mr. Siddell's report is not yet  
received.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To/

Mr. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of Treasury. }



63  
Min<sup>ist</sup> of the United States,  
Aug. 27, 1839.

Sir,

I send subjoined a copy of a letter which I have just received from Mr. Bradford. The information conveyed by it is truly melancholy. I have to add that one of the 3 workmen, mentioned as having sailed for Philadelphia, died on the passage. A letter received by Mrs. Maxwell, this morning, from a friend of her husband's, expresses the hope that he had passed the crisis of his disease. Three of the men who have died leave families in Philadelphia, which were entirely dependent upon them.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec'y of Treasury. }

Over —



(Copy.)

U. S. Br. Mint, New Orleans,  
August 17. 1839.

Sir,

I have to inform you that on the first of this month, Nathaw Clark, the foreman of the Coining department in this B. Mint, died of Yellow Fever; that since then nine others of the men have been attacked, one of whom, Mr. Bird, died on the 15th inst., & one, Mr. Scheide, is expected every moment to die; four are convalescent, three left for Philadelphia upwards of a week ago, & Mr. Maxwell & Mrs. Tyler are sick; and it is the opinion of the Physicians that it will not be safe to attempt to resume the operations of this Branch Mint before the 1st of November. - On the 5th inst., my wife had an attack of fever which left her so as to enable me to remove her on the 11th, to the neighborhood of St. Francisville, where I left her on the 14th, & returned here on the 15th, and found the operations completely suspended. I have advised the men who have escaped the fever to leave town instantly, as I shall do myself to-morrow. The Treasurer, Assayer, & one of the Clerks, will in my absence transact any business that will require to be done.

Since writing the above, I have attended the funeral of Mr. Scheide, who has left a wife



and children now in Philad<sup>a</sup>. I have had  
the men paid off to date and directed the  
melting & coining operations to be suspended  
from date to first of November next.

Remain yr. faithful servant,  
(Signed) David Bradford, Supt.

Dr. R. M. Patterson, }  
Director of the Mint. }



W 64  
Mint of the United States,  
August 28th, 1839.

Sir,

Letters received this morning from New-  
Orleans give me the melancholy intelligence  
of the death of James Maxwell, Esq., late Master  
& Refiner of the Branch Mint at that place.  
He died of the yellow fever, on the 18th  
inst.

Mr. Maxwell was for some time Clerk  
of the Weigh-room at this Mint, and bore,  
in all respects, so excellent a character,  
that I did not hesitate to recommend  
him to the situation to which he was ap-  
pointed at New Orleans, — where he proved  
to be a competent and energetic officer.  
I deeply deplore his loss. — He leaves a wife  
and child, who are now in Philadelphia.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }

over.



P. S. — Would it not be right to insert,  
in the Globe, a paragraph to the following  
effect? —

New Orleans Branch Mint.

We regret to learn that the yellow fever  
has been committing its fatal ravages in  
this institution:

James Maxwell, Esq., the Melter & Refiner,  
died on the 18th inst.

Nathan Clark, freeman of the Coining  
department, died on the 1st inst.

Orwin D. Bird, one of the Workmen, died  
on the 15th inst.

Charles Scheide, another of the work-  
men, died on the 17th inst.

John Moody, another workman, died  
at sea, about the 10th inst.

Several of the other men are laboring  
under the disease, and it has been found  
necessary to suspend the operations of  
the Mint until the 1st of November.



M 65

Mint of the United States.  
Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. respecting the death of Mr. Maxwell, the late Master & Refiner of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, — on which sad subject I also wrote to you yesterday.

The question of a successor in this office is a very important one. I wrote yesterday to Mr. Shill, and to Mr. Cammack, (the lately appointed treasurer,) to ask them to name to me, in confidence, any individual, acclimated to the fatal region of New Orleans, gentlemen of liberal education, possessing at least a theoretical knowledge of Chemistry, and of unexceptionable moral worth, who would be willing to accept the vacant situation.



I do not ask for a person acquainted  
with the duties to be performed, for  
I have no hope that such a one could  
be found. But if an individual  
suitable in all other points can be  
met with, the necessary instructions  
can be given to him here, before  
business is resumed at the New  
Orleans Office. That sufficient time  
may be allowed, however, it is very  
desirable that the selection should  
be made as early as possible.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your faithful Servant,  
R. W. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury



M 66

Mint of the United States,  
August 30. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 28th inst., with the enclosed copy of a letter from Jacob Barker, Esq., of New Orleans, and the communications from John Cutbush, Esq., the U. S. Consul at Hamburg.

I had received from Mr. Barker a similar letter to that which he sent to you, and I have written to the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, (the Superintendent being absent,) to request that the Melters & Refiners' vaults should not be interfered with until further instructions are received from me. It is the wish of Mr. Maxwell's family, that Mr. Barker should represent their interests & Mr. Maxwell's reputation on the occasion of the settlement of his Mint accounts, but I think it also desirable that this settlement should be made by the new Treasurer, Mr. Cammack. He will be here in a few days, and I will give



him exact instructions as to the course to be pursued.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To }  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury. }

P.S. — Immediately after the above letter was written, Mr. Curmeack presented himself at the Mint. I am pleased with him. He seems possessed of intelligence and energy of character. He is already engaged in tracing methodically the course of business in the treasurer's department, and, as soon as he becomes well acquainted with it, will be ready to set out for New Orleans.

A letter brought by Mr. Curmeack, ~~who~~ from Mr. Th. Sidell, who is now in New York, mentions that



his report is ~~now~~ in the hands of the  
copyist, and will be printed next  
week.

R. W. F.

I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst.  
inclosing a pamphlet, containing some  
interesting facts of the Proceedings  
and a letter to your friend Mr. B. K. H. of  
New York, offering them to be  
transmitted into this country.

On the subject I have to remark  
that our President, Chief Justice, Mr. Paine,  
and his mission to Europe, on the  
part of Mr. Thompson, which he has  
undertaken, but of which he was not  
willing to take the measure of drawing  
He was sent at the time in Charleston in  
the duty of finding funds at work in the  
same principles, and of which Mr. Thompson  
and is a cooperation with great success  
in these funds for the cause  
of the oppressed which has



67  
Mint of the United States,  
August 31. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> inst., enclosing a pamphlet describing ~~and~~ commending the Coining Press of M. Thonnelier, and a letter to you from Mess. DeRham & Morris of New York offering their services to introduce it into this Country.

On this subject I have to remark that our present Chief Coiner, Mr. Peale, while on his mission to Europe, on <sup>the</sup> business of the Mint, examined very carefully the Press of M. Thonnelier, which he saw in operation, but of which he was not permitted to take measurements or drawings. He also saw, at the Mint in Carlruhe, in the duchy of Baden, Presses at work, in the same principle, and of which M. Thonnelier's is a modification with great improvements. From these Presses Mr. Peale made the particular arrangement which has been



Adopted, and is now used with perfect success, in all the Mints of the United States. Mess. DeKham & Morre may see the lever <sup>coining</sup> Presses in full operation at this Mint, while M. Thonnelier's Press is not yet adopted at the Mint in Paris.

The Cutting-machine of M. Thonnelier is by no means so simple as that used by us, and which we owe to Mr. Eckfeldt, and cannot be more efficient. This has been employed by us Partially for more than twenty years, and we have not used the Screw Cutting Machine at all for seven years, though it is still employed at the Mints of London and Paris.

The rolling, drawing, Cutting, Milling, and coining are all executed at present, in the U. S. Mints, by Steam Power.

I write to Mess. DeKham & Morre in compliance with your request.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury }



68  
Mint of the United States,  
Sept. 13. 1839.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 10th inst., with the enclosed recommendation of Mr. Edw. P. Trastour, as Melter & Refiner of the New Orleans Branch Mint.

A letter from Jacob Barker, Esq., of the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, has the following paragraphs:

If such a state of things should arise as for Mr. Maxwell to accept other employment than that of the New Orleans Br. Mint, allow me to suggest to you the expediency of making further inquiry before Mr. Trastour be appointed. A letter to J. W. Zacharie, Esq., one of the principal patrons of the N.O. Br. Mint, and to Leonard Mathews, Esq., President of the Western Marine Insurance Company of this place, would elicit valuable information?"

As the office in question is one of great importance and high trust, I have felt it my duty to write to these gentlemen, to ask of them, in confidence, their opinion as to the suitableness of the proposed candidate, and the grounds on



which this opinion is founded.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }



M Mint of the United States,  
Sept. 13. 1839.

Sir,

I send subjoined a copy of a letter from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Branch Mint, on the subject of the deficient returns for deposits made by Mr. Fulton and by George Davis, Esq<sup>r</sup>., mentioned in the letter of Jacob Barker, Esq., transmitted to me by you on the 5th ult. — I do not think it possible that any thing further can be learned as to this matter. My confidence in the Porter, Mr. Brémont, is gone, and I shall object to his being again employed when the operations of the Mint are resumed.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

14  
Large copy of letter  
to be kept  
W  
Over.



(Copy.)

"W. I. Br. Mint New Orleans.  
Sept. 1st. 1839.

"Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> ult.<sup>o</sup> relative to the letter of Mr. Fulton & George Davis to J. Barker, dated "Mobile, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1839, I have to say that the Treasurer of this Br. Mint has adopted the rule observed in the Custom-house in this city, and in all Banks, to wit, that when a payment is made, it is the duty of the party receiving payment to verify the same at the time, as all responsibility thereafter ceases.

I enclose a letter of Mr. Trinity to me of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.<sup>o</sup>, on this subject.

Mr. Minard was discharged by me on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. in consequence of the operations in this Br. Mint being suspended on account of the prevalence of the Yellow fever, at which time I discharged all the men I found remaining here. I firmly believe that he acted with diligence & fidelity whilst employed here, and I had that character of him previously from the best sources of information. I am sorry the Commission did not investigate the charge against him as I know it would have proved erroneous. His testimony was reduced to writing and will show whether it was contradictory or not.

It has often occurred that small coins, after being put into boxes & delivered, have dropped out of the boxes in moving them from the Treasurer's office to the Street which may have been the manner in which the loss of



Mr. Davis, who, I am informed, is a man of high character for honesty and veracity, may be accounted for. I was satisfied, from the investigation I made at the time he informed me of his loss, that he had been paid the full amount of his gold \$1000. by Mr. Dimity, the only clerk in this B. Mint at that time. I was & am still perfectly satisfied that Mr. Fulton was also fully paid.

Any further information that you may desire or that may occur to me I will promptly furnish.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

[Signature omitted in the Original.]

(Copy.)

New Orleans, Aug. 30. 1839.

David Bradford, Esq.,  
Supt. Br. Mint, }

Sir,

In answer to your direction for the necessary explanations relative to the letter of Mr. Fulton & Bro. Davis to J. Barker, dated "Mobile 25<sup>th</sup> July 1839" - I have to state that Mr. Fulton's deposit was not made for coinage but merely to obtain small change - that Mr. Fulton did not come himself for the money, but sent an individual by the name of Stone as far as I can recollect - that this individual forwarded it to Mobile on board of a steam boat - Mr. Fulton having



previously left the city - that the money was taken  
from unbroken boxes in the same state as they  
had been received from the Coined - On the  
same day a gentleman from Mobile got \$6000,  
in dimes which he took along with him on the  
same boat - it was of the same delivery,  
& upon counting found the amount correct.  
- As for Mr. Davis he did not make a de-  
posit - but came to the Mint with \$1000, in  
half eagles, and as we were in want of Gold,  
having had no gold yet struck, the Treasurer  
said to give him \$1000 in dimes for his gold.  
the amount was delivered to him person-  
ally & boxed in his own presence.

Very respectfully your  
obedient servant,

(Signed) M. D. Dimitry.

M 110 Sept 14  
M Keane



W 70  
Philadelphia Post Office.  
Sep. 16 / 39.

Dear Sir,

I have just received my  
letters from Mr. Vickers, and  
I regret deeply to say that  
they inform me of the death  
of Mr. Tyler, on the 8th inst.  
I fear that his loss is irreparable,  
for that institution.

Very respectfully  
your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson.

To  
Hon. Lem Woodbury.  
Sec. of Treasury.

Hon. Lem Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.



*M* *U*  
Mint of the United States,  
Sept. 16. 1839.

Sir,

Your communication of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., together with the packages of Coins, and letters from the Consuls at St. Petersburg, and Kingston, (Jamaica,) have been received this day.

Your suggestion in regard to the mode of accounting for Coins transmitted by Consuls, viz: to deposit the amount of their Cost &c. to the Credit of the Treasurer of the U. States, out of the Contingent fund of the Mint - said fund to be reimbursed by the Coins themselves after assay - will be duly complied with. I would beg leave to remark, however, that this arrangement will have to be delayed until the bills of the Consuls, or the amount of them, shall have been rendered to us; which, as yet, has not been done in all cases. In the mean time, a faithful account of the Mint Value of the Coins received, will be kept here. - It is probable that all the Specimens sent for will be received by the close of the year.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.



Ms. (72)

Mint of the United States.  
Sept. 16, 1839.

Sir,

I have received a letter from Jacob Barker Esq., of New Orleans, mentioning that Mr. Tyler, the Coiner of the Mint, is lying ill with the yellow fever. If the case should prove fatal, like that of his colleague Mr. Macross, our embarrassments, with regard to that fated institution, would be greatly increased. Mr. Tyler's wife and son have also had the fever, but are convalescent.

Very respectfully,  
Truly yours

P. M. Patterson.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury.



W 73

Mint of the United States,  
Sept. 26. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of a series of Russian coins,  
with accompanying documents of much in-  
terest, sent to you by A. P. Gibson, Esq., U.  
S. Consul at St. Petersburg, and forwarded by  
you to the Mint. This series is a duplicate  
of that transmitted by you on the 13th inst.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }



74  
Mint of the United States,  
Sept. 26. 1839.

Sir,

You have referred to me a letter from Jacob Parker, Esq., dated New Orleans, Sept. 14. 1839, and mentioning Proceedings of Mr. Bradford & Dr. Hort, with regard to two of the Mint workmen, which he considers improper in themselves, and prompted by a bad spirit. On this matter I have to remark, that, without a knowledge of the whole Circumstances it would be impossible to judge whether the conduct of the officers in question was proper in this case or otherwise; while there can be no doubt of their legal authority to act as they have done. I claim no right myself to interfere in the direct government of the men at the Branch Mints. It may be proper to mention, however, that the man discharged by Dr. Hort was employed by Mr. Tyler, under an order from the Superintendent, of which I have the original now before me. It is dated Aug. 31st, & is as follows:— "Sir, I hereby direct that you employ such man or men as may be requisite to keep the machinery in your department in proper order till the 1st of November next."

Very respectfully,

To/

your faithful servant,

Hon. Gen Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.



ack  
the Secy says  
he wishes you to examine them  
Minist of the United States.  
Sept. 28th, 1839.  
Sir,

Mr. Wm E. DuBois, the Assistant Assayer of this Mint, goes to Washington, at the request of Mr. Barker and Mr. Miller, to give explanations regarding the Branch Mint accounts. He very properly desires to pay his respects to the Head of the Department, and I therefore take the liberty of introducing him to you.

Mr. DuBois takes with him a part of the papers connected with the New Orleans investigation, which it would be difficult to transmit to you by mail, and of which I have a copy.

Very respectfully

Your faithful servant

28  
J. M. L. Levi Woodbury, } P. M. Patterson.  
Sec. of Treasury.



Copy

Consulate of the United States of America

Sir

Hamburg 9<sup>th</sup> August 1839

I wrote you on the 25<sup>th</sup> ulta per Franklin via New York and forwarded one set of the Coins I have been able to get here - Since when I have obtained the the following information regarding the Hanoverian Coinages  
Gold - Double - Single & Half Pistoles - 35.6 Pistoles to weigh a mark fine Cologne and contain 258 Grains fine Gold - Double & half in proportion - \$10 - 5 and 2½  
 There is not to be any permanent legal value of the Pistole in Silver coins - but the Minister of Finance, shall from time to time fix the value, at which the Government will receive the same in lieu of Silver

Silver - Thaler of 24 Good Groschen - Groschen 12 pfennings - 10½ thalers to weigh a mark fine - and contain 216 Grains fine Silver and 14 thalers the Cologne Mark fine - 43.¾ - 4 Groschen and 87.½ - 2 Groschen pieces, to weigh a mark fine - 84 - 4 Groschen and 168 - 2 Groschen pieces to contain 150 Grains fine Silver to the mark fine - 1 Groschen - 6 and 4 pfennig pieces, to be of the Standard of 16 thalers to the Mark fine, 120 Good Groschen pieces to weigh a mark fine and contain 90 Grains fine Silver - 168 - 4 pfennig and 252 - 4 pfennig pieces to weigh a Mark fine and contain 63 Grains fine Silver

Copper - 1 and 2 pfennig pieces - 8 Good Groschen value to weigh a mark

If it should be found convenient to coin from the Silver, obtained from the the nearly without alloy 13. 65 72 thalers shall weigh a mark and contain 286 Grains fine Silver - I now forward the Duplicates (except a 32 Schilling piece - Rix Bank) of Denmark which I have not been able to get, & in addition to these I send two sets of the Brunswick Coins (except of



the Currents Thaler <sup>and 6 Groschen pieces</sup> of which I have only been able to obtain one  
From Leppes I have not yet received any - but hope I soon shall, as also  
another 32 <sup>or 6 Groschen</sup> Gilling Rex and a Brunswick Thaler which shall be forwarded

Very Respectfully

Your most Obedient Servant

To

John Cuthbert

Robert & Co Patterson Esquires

Director of the Mint

St. Adelphi

The Brunswick Coins are 1 Current Thaler 1 four - 2 two 2 and 2 one  
good Groschen 2 one Maria Groschen 2 - 6 pfennig 2 - 4 - 5 Silver 2 - 2 pfennig  
and 2 1/2 Copper

Without your orders I have also sent two 2/3 pieces coined from  
Silver of the Hearty and I believe without alloy -

Wheat



m 77

Mint of the United States  
Oct. 11th, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith the Bond of Horan C. Cammack as Treasurer of the Branch of the Mint at New Orleans, and which appears to me to be perfectly satisfactory. The sufficiency of the Sureties is certified by the Judge of the District Court of the United States, in consequence of the absence of the Attorney General and of his representative Mr. Cuyler. Mr. Cammack's oath of Office is also sent enclosed.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson,  
(Director)

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

Forward the nearest  
draft of them  
are satisfactory  
I propose an  
approval for me



78  
Min<sup>try</sup> of the United States,  
October 14, 1839.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of  
your letter of the 12th, accompanied by a se-  
ries of Belgian coins, forwarded by Mr. Parker,  
the American Consul at Antwerp. A similar se-  
ries was received on the 7th inst., the acknowledgment  
of which I regret to have neglected at the time.

The communication from the Danish Consul  
has been received; also the series of coins which  
you mention as having been sent by the mail of  
the 11th; but which proves to be a set of the coins  
of the Netherlands, - a duplicate of the set trans-  
mitted by you on the 26th of July last, - and not  
the Danish coins as you supposed.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,

Director.

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury.

See, Head cell is right



79  
Mint of the United States,  
October 18th, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, this evening, of your letter of the 16th, announcing the new appointments made by the President, for the New-Orleans Mint.

I have already written to the gentlemen appointed, and will give them tomorrow the necessary instructions, as you desire.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of the accounts of Thomas M. Barker, U. S. Consul at Antwerp, for the Belgium Coins transmitted by him to the Mint.

I am, Sir, with great respect

your faithful servant

To/ Messrs. Levi Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

It may be proper to mention that the legal title for Mr. Tyler is "Carter," and not "Chief Carter".



M (80)

Mint of the United States.  
Oct. 18th, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to send you  
herewith a Statement of the Deposits  
and Coinage of the Branch Mints, du-  
ring the quarter ending Sep. 30th, 1839.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful Servant,  
P. M. Patterson.  
Director.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



M. (81)

Mint of the United States,  
Oct. 22. 1839.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt,  
through you, of two series of Coins: the first  
of Bavarian Coins transmitted by you on  
the 16th, and the other of Danish Coins, on  
the 19th inst.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.



Minut of the United States  
Oct. 28. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, to day, of your letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> inst., respecting the Commission and bond of the Treasurer of the Mint.

It was not known to us, until the late Circular of the First Comptroller of the Treasury on this subject was received, that a second bond became necessary when an appointment made during the recess of Congress, was subsequently renewed with the advice and consent of the Senate. Our Treasurer, Assayer, and Chief Coiner fall under this predicament, and only wait for the form applied for by Gov. Findlay, in order to renew their bonds.

Gov. Findlay has no recollection of having received a second Commission. He certainly has no such document now; but as his trunk was rifled at his lodgings, some years ago, this, if it did exist, may have been taken.

Your instructions as to an examina-



tion into the Treasurer's bullion and Cash  
accounts, shall be attended to, and a  
report rendered.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To, }  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury. }

P. S. — Since the above letter was mit-  
ted, Gov. Fiddlay has received, from  
the post-office, the Commission sent  
to him by the Secretary of State. —  
I have given Gov. Fiddlay a form for  
his bond, which seems satisfactory to  
him, and he will not wait longer  
for that asked of Mr. Barker. — As  
his duties are in the interior of the  
State, some time must elapse before  
the bond can be completed.



M

83

Mint of the United States,  
Oct. 28. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a second series of Danish coins, transmitted through you, from Mr. Hansbro, U. S. Consul at Copenhagen, accompanied by a duplicate communication on the subject of the Danish Coinage.

Also of a set of German coins, transmitted by Mr. Cuttbert, U. S. Consul at Hamburg, - this being also the second set received from him.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Tattersall,  
Director.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury. }



Enclosure sent to Mr.  
and dated 4 Nov. 2. 1839.

Mint of the United States,  
Oct. 31. 1839.

Sir,

I received, on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst., the letter and accounts sent to you, under date of the 14<sup>th</sup>, by Ignatius A. Few, Esq., Commissioner for erecting the Branch Mint at Dahlonega. According to this communication, the only difficulty that now remains in the way of making a final settlement with the Contractor, is that I had "insisted upon a deduction of the amount of difference in value between the wooden cornice which is put up, and the brick cornice, which was required in Mr. Strickland's Specifications"; and Mr. Few adds that "a brick cornice of the proportions required in the plan, obviously could not have been made". If Mr. Few had said that the mechanics employed did not know how to make it and support it, he



would have been no doubt right; but he ought to have paused before he decided so positively as to the practicability of a plan proposed by the first architect in the country. A building has just been erected, near this mint, which has a brick cornice projecting 14 inches. Still, as this matter is now past remedy, and as the Commissioner, upon whose responsibility, after all, the settlement must be made, thinks that the wooden cornice ought to be received, as within the spirit of the contract, I am willing to withdraw my objection.

I return the papers sent to you by Mr. Few.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury. }



85

Mint of the United States  
Nov. 4th, 1839

Sir,

A letter just received from the  
Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint  
asks whether the families of the  
officers who fell, at that mint, by  
the late epidemic, can draw the  
salaries to the end of the quarter  
in which the death occurred. As  
I am unable to answer this ques-  
tion, I am obliged to refer, for  
information, to your Department.

I sincerely hope that the allow-  
ance may be found admissible.  
These gentlemen, — Messrs. Maxwell  
and Tyler, — died at their posts, and  
their sickness and funeral expenses  
must have required nearly the whole  
salary of the quarter. Their families  
are destitute.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant

J. Hon. Levi Woodbury } P. M. Patterson,  
Secy of Treasury. } Director.



M (86)

Mint of the United States.  
Novem. 8th, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., on the subject of the report which I had presented regarding the charges made by the Post Master at Dahlgren against the Superintendent of the Mint at the same place. In compliance with your desire, I have sent to Dr. Singletary a copy of this letter, and I have given him specific instructions with regard to those particulars in which you agree with me that he has erred.

I feel confident that, in view of all the circumstances, the course taken by the President in this case is a wise one, which will remedy the evils complained of, while it avoids an unnecessary public scandal.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,

Director.

To Hon Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



Mint of the United States.  
Nov. 9th, 1839.

Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th, in answer to my inquiry respecting the salaries of the officers who did at the New Orleans Branch Mint, and I have communicated your reply to the Treasurer of that Mint.

I received, this morning, a letter from Joseph M. Kennedy Esq., acknowledging my notice of his appointment as Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, and signifying his acceptance of the office.

Gov. Findlay sends, by this mail, his new bond. As this will remove the difficulty as to the remittance asked by me on the 22d ult., may I take the liberty of suggesting that, if possible, the draft for the amount may not be made on the Mint itself? Our deposit is now so near the minimum requisite for the advantageous operating of the Mint, and for securing the certainty of prompt payments, that I hope nothing but absolute necessity may cause it to be reduced.

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
S. M. Patterson,  
Director.



Ms. 88  
Philadelphia, November 9, 1839.

Dear Sir,

I have with me enclose my bond,  
as Treasurer of the Mint of the United States,  
which I hope may prove satisfactory.

I have the honor to be,  
very respectfully, your  
friend & ob<sup>d</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>,  
Wm. Finley

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Secretary of the Treasury

1. Please the proper  
affidavit for me  
I then return  
it duly  
filed  
W

2. I am very  
gratefully  
W



M (89)

Mint of the United States.  
Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst.  
transmitting packages of coins and ac-  
companying communications from the U. S.  
Consul at Lisbon, and also letters from  
the U. S. Consul at Rio de Janeiro.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



W 90

Mint of the United States.  
Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1837.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> inst.

A thorough examination of the Treasurer's accounts has been instituted, in compliance with your instructions of the 23<sup>d</sup> ult., and I superintended myself the counting of the moneys in his hands. The report, however, is delayed, in consequence of difficulties that have occurred in balancing the copper accounts, confusion having crept into these accounts on the change of the system introduced by the law of January, 1837. No time, however, will be lost, in bringing this very desirable settlement to a conclusion. In the mean while, I have the satisfaction to state, that the sum involved in doubt is a very moderate one, and that there is no cause for the slightest uneasiness on the part of the Government.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,  
H. M. Patterson,  
Director.

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury.



(91)

Mint of the United States,  
Nov. 25. 1839.

Sir,

I have received from Horatio Davis, Esq., Notary Public, a bill for his services during the investigation at the New Orleans Mint, of which I send you a copy herewith, together with Mr. Slidell's approval as endorsed on it, and of a letter from him on the subject. Mr. Davis applies to me for payment.

Now as this comes to me as a new case, I am ignorant as to the course which I am to pursue, and am under the necessity of applying to your Department for instructions. Is the payment to be made from Mint funds, and if so, from what appropriation, - or must a special appropriation be asked for? I know that analogous investigations have occurred in your department, but am happy that this is the first of the kind in the Mint.

*Ever respectfully,*

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury. }



This would seem to be rather  
a large sum with which to charge  
the contingent fund of the Mint.  
It might be paid out of unproven  
claims - unless it be deemed proper  
to ask for an appropriation for  
the purpose

M.D. 28 Nov/29

I think it best to inform the  
Director, that the sum, which  
appears reasonable I should  
suppose would be a proper  
charge on the contingent  
fund of the Mint; that  
if the fund is not now large  
enough to bear it he  
should ask for an addi-  
tional sum next year  
to enable him to pay what  
may seem just

L. W.

M 238 Nov 29

W. E. Can



*M (Copy. 92)*  
"R. M. Patterson, Esq.,  
Director U. S. Mint,  
Philad<sup>a</sup>.

Sir,

In the investigation which I was instructed by you to make into the affairs of the U. S. Br. Mint at New Orleans, I found it necessary to employ the services of a Notary Public to administer oaths to the witnesses, take down the testimony, and prepare the copies thereof. I obtained the attendance of Notarion Davis, Esq., N. P. accordingly, who served with great attention & fidelity. I have requested him to make out his account and transmit the same to you for approval & settlement, and beg leave to ask that you will take such measures as may be necessary to obtain a Treasury Warrant or other remittance to Mr. Davis of the amount in question.

I am, Sir, with great respect,  
your obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

(Signed) Thomas Slidell,  
U. S. Atty. for E. Dist.  
of Lou<sup>is</sup>.

New Orleans 12. Nov. 1839.



(Copy)

93

The United States,

To Horatio Davis, Notary Public, Do.

1839.

June & July. - To draft of the Proceedings had before Thomas Sidell, Esq., Commissioner appointed on behalf of the United States to investigate the Conduct of the Officers of the U.S. B.R. Mint at New Orleans. Night sittings. - - - - - \$500. -

To three copies of the same, one forwarded to Dr. Patterson, Director of the United States Mint at Philad<sup>a</sup>, one furnished to Mr. Sidell, and one furnished to the parties to prepare their defence & now recorded in my Office, \$250 each - - - - - 750. -

To per diem for attendance at the Mint on the 3d, 10th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th of June, 1st, 2d, 3d & 4th of July, 18 days at \$10 - 180. -  
\$1430. -

Received the above in full,

(Signed) Horatio Davis "

New Orleans, }  
Nov. 12. 1839. }

(over)



(Copy.)

The said services were rendered at my request by Horatio Davis Notary Public of New Orleans, who was employed by me to administer oaths to the witnesses, take down the testimony and prepare the copies thereof. With a view of not interrupting the business of the Court the sittings commenced at 4 1/2 P. M., and actually continued till after midnight. I consider the bill a just & reasonable one, and accordingly approve the same.

U.S. Dist. Atty. Office

New Orleans, Nov. 12. 1839.

(Signed) Thomas Sidell.

U.S. Dist. Atty. Eas. Dist. of La.,



*Bond for 94 in Compt. Office*

Mint of the United States,  
Nov. 27. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed the Bond of Philos B. Tyler, Esq., Coiner of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, with my certificate that I find it satisfactory. Mr. Tyler's Oath of Office is appended to the Bond.

I am sorry to learn from Mr. Kennedy, that Dr. Riddel, who is appointed Melter & Refiner, has not yet returned from Texas, and has not been heard from since his appointment. He was looked for daily; but, in the mean time, the operations of the Mint must necessarily be suspended.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

*See to the bond to*

Col. Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury. }



(95)

Mint of the United States,  
Nov. 30. 1839.

Sir,

Your letter of the 9th inst., in which you announced that you might probably find it necessary to draw on the Mint for \$200,000 of Coins, has caused us much uneasiness, because a diminution of our public deposits, so great as that, would destroy the system of prompt payments, on which we have been acting so satisfactorily. In proof of this I take the liberty of sending enclosed a statement of the whole amount of American Coins now in the Treasurer's vault, and which is only \$99,609.91. All the remainder of our deposits is now in transitu through the other Departments of the Mint: in Bullion, in bars, in ingots, in strips, in solutions, in grains, in cuttings, in planchets, or in Coins not ready for delivery to the Treasurer. It is true that we yesterday received, and paid for, \$150,000 worth of Bullion; but this only confirms the fact, that, with a fund much diminished beyond that which we now have, our system of purchasing Bullion, by prompt payments, must cease, and with it the present efficiency of the Mint. I know, positively, that except for the



immediate exchange for our coins, yesterday's de-  
posit would not have been made.

If you find it desirable to use new A-  
merican coins, - as for instance in payments to the  
members of Congress, - could you not replace the  
amounts, by giving us drafts on the New York  
Custom House, payable in foreign coins, - such as  
Mexican dollars? I pray, at least, that some  
measure may be taken to avoid the overthrow  
of our present Mint system.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.



*m* (96)  
Gold:

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Eagles          | 5,220.00            |
| Half-eagles     | 10,125.00           |
| Quarter do.     | 10,880.00           |
| Beckler's Coins | 140.00              |
|                 | <u>\$ 26,365.00</u> |

Silver:

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Half-dollars    | 63,012.00     |
| Quarter-dollars | 5,250.25      |
| Dimes           | 2,756.20      |
| Half-dimes      | 1,804.55      |
| Old Coins       | <u>421.91</u> |

\$ 73,244.91

|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| Gold  | 26,365.00           |
| Total | <u>\$ 99,609.91</u> |

In Treasurer's Vault, Friday afternoon,  
4 O'clock, Nov. 29. 1839.

Ed. Sprague, Clerk of  
Mint of the United States. Weigh Room.



*M* *92*  
Mint of the United States,  
Dec. 6th, 1839.

Sir,

The Treasurer of the Mint received, this morning, the following letter, with the draft therein mentioned:

Treasury of the U. States,  
Dec. 4, 1839.

"Treasurer of the U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia"

Sir,

Under instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury, I enclose a draft of the Post-Master General, on the Post-Master at Philadelphia, for \$3,000, in my favor, and made payable to your order, which please collect & place to my account as a deposit for the Credit of Jas. W. Breckinridge, late Collector of the Customs at New Orleans.

Very respectfully,

Your obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

(Signed) Wm. Selden

Treas. U. States



The transaction thus proposed is entirely of a new Character, and Gov. Hindlay is embarrassed to know in what manner he can execute the duty asked of him.

We had at first hoped to get rid of the difficulty by receiving the amount as a deposit for coinage, made in behalf of Mr. Breddore; but we find, on inquiry, that the Post-Office cannot pay the draft except in American Coins, which cannot of course be received for this purpose. We cannot see, therefore, by what interpretation of law this can be made a Mint transaction. If the deposit had been made with us, directly, for the purchase of bullion for coinage, then a draft on us to the amount, would have effected the purpose in view; but as the order now stands, we do not see how it can come upon our books. Under these circumstances, we feel it our duty to wait for further instructions from your Department.

Very respectfully,

To/  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secy of Treasury.

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson

Director



Wedge ruff  
grain head  
have to count  
it when collected  
W



93  
Min<sup>tr</sup> of the United States.  
Dec. 9th, 1839.

Sir,

In your letter of the 5th inst., you  
referred to a communication which I made  
to you with regard to the law of June 28,  
1834, making foreign gold coins a legal  
tender in the United States. My views, on  
this matter, were presented to you in a  
letter of the 12th of October 1838; and, in  
your reply, of the 15th of the same month,  
you requested me to call attention to the  
subject in my annual report, and to re-  
commend the changes which I deemed  
to be proper. This was accordingly done,  
as you will see in the copy of the report  
which I take the liberty of sending you  
enclosed; but my recommendation was  
not acted upon by Congress. It is, in  
my judgment, very desirable that it be  
no longer neglected; and, when the House  
shall be organized, I will ask the liberty  
of again addressing you on the subject.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

D. M. Patterson.  
Director.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

[P.S.]



P.S. — I have neglected to mention  
that the \$30,000 which, as you state  
in your letter of the 5th inst., the Collec-  
tor of Philadelphia had been requested  
to deposit in the Mint, was duly re-  
ceived, and placed, according to your  
instructions, to the account kept under the  
act of June 23, 1836, "to regulate the  
deposits of public money."

P.M.P.



MINT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*A Report of the Director of the Mint, showing the Operations of that Institution during the year 1838.*

JANUARY 19, 1839.

Read, and laid upon the table.

*To the House of Representatives of the United States :*

I transmit to the House of Representatives a report from the Director of the Mint, exhibiting the operations of that institution during the year 1838.

M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON, January 18, 1839.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philadelphia, January 15, 1839.

SIR: In compliance with the law, I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the operations of the Mint and its branches for the past year :

The coinage, at this Mint, in 1838, has amounted to \$3,979,217, comprising \$1,622,515 in gold, \$2,293,000 in silver, and \$63,702 in copper; and composed of 15,336,518 pieces of coin. (Statement A.)

The deposits of gold, within the year, amounted to \$1,624,500, of which \$171,700 was derived from the mines of the United States. (Statements B and C.)

The deposits of silver amounted to \$2,301,200, and were derived principally from Mexico and South America. (Statement D.)

The great demand for small coins, mentioned in my last report, having continued, the coinage of this kind has exceeded even that of 1837; the number of pieces of less value than the half-dollar, including cents, struck at this Mint during the past year, being 11,449,700.

Thomas Allen, print.



The coinage of eagles, which had been intermitted since the year 1804, has been lately resumed, so that all the varieties of coin authorized by law are now executed at the Mint.

At the close of the year, the public funds in our vaults, under the laws authorizing deposits with the Mint, "for the purchase of bullion for coinage," and "for enabling the Mint to make the returns to depositors with as little delay as possible," amounted to \$1,132,427 62 in gold and silver. The amount withdrawn during the year, on Treasury drafts, being \$523,511 47; and the amount added, \$608,318 46.

The possession of this public fund has enabled us to pay in coins for all bullion brought to the Mint, without further delay than is necessary to ascertain its value, except in a few instances, where small silver coins were required; while the increased efficiency of the Mint, in consequence of the introduction of steam coinage and other improvements, has put it in our power promptly to replace, by the coins made from such bullion, those that had been withdrawn for its purchase.

The branch mint at New Orleans received its first deposits of bullion on the 8th of March, and commenced operations immediately afterwards. The demand for silver change led the officers to confine the coinage to dimes; of which 367,434 were struck before the end of July, when the work was interrupted. Two of the officers and nearly all the workmen of this mint were from the North, and it was deemed unsafe for them to remain in New Orleans during the *first* sickly season. Accordingly, leave of absence was granted to them on the 1st of August, the workmen being put on half pay. In November the operations were resumed, but much could not be accomplished before the close of the year. The value of the bullion received at this mint was \$40,600 in gold, and \$237,000 in silver. The coinage amounted to \$40,243—all in dimes. (Statements E and F.)

The branch mint at Charlotte commenced its operations in December, 1837, and has received deposits of gold to the value of \$130,600. The amount of coinage has been \$84,165, composed of 12,886 half-eagles, and 7,894 quarter-eagles. (Statements E and F.)

The branch mint at Dahlonega commenced its operations in February, and has received deposits of gold to the value of \$141,800. The amount of its coinage has been \$102,915, composed of 20,583 half-eagles. (Statements E and F.)

The difficulties naturally incident to any new undertaking have been fully presented at the branch mints, and it would, therefore, not be just to form conclusions as to their importance and efficiency from the operations of the past year. They are now, however, in good condition, and the officers and men have acquired the necessary experience. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the labors at the branch mints during the present year, will be such as to satisfy the expectations which led to their establishment.

Before concluding this report, I feel it my duty to point out some errors in the act of June 28, 1834, which, in my judgment, require the prompt attention of Congress. In this act, it is declared that the gold coins of Great Britain, Portugal, and Brazil, not less than 22 carats (corresponding to 916 $\frac{2}{3}$  thousandths) fine, shall be receivable in all payments, by weight, at the rate of ninety-four cents and eight-tenths of a cent per pennyweight. Now, our assays show that the actual fineness of the



British gold coins does not exceed  $915\frac{1}{2}$  thousandths, and that the value at the Mint is but 94.62 cents per pennyweight. The gold coins of Portugal and Brazil vary from  $913\frac{1}{2}$  to  $914\frac{1}{2}$  thousandths in fineness, and their mint value, therefore, is still less. The gold coins of France, Spain, Mexico, and Colombia, are also over-valued, partly because they are somewhat inferior to the supposed fineness, and partly because our own standard has been raised since the passage of the act. This act, therefore, must serve to lead the community into error as to the value of foreign gold, and to prevent, in a great measure, its recoinage; and, as the capacity of the Mint and its branches is now abundantly sufficient for all the gold coinage necessary for the metallic circulation of the United States, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of repealing the act entirely. The act of the same date, making Spanish-American dollars a legal tender of payment at 100 cents, and French five-franc pieces at 93 cents each, though probably unnecessary, does not lead to any injustice or inconvenience that I am aware of.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your faithful servant,

R. M. PATTERSON,  
Director of the Mint.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

A.

*Statement of the coinage at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, in the year 1838.*

| Denominations.           | Pieces.   | Pieces.    | Value.      | Value.      |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Gold:</i>             |           |            |             |             |
| Eagles - - -             | 7,200     |            | \$72,000    |             |
| Half eagles - - -        | 286,588   | -          | 1,432,940   |             |
| Quarter eagles - - -     | 47,030    | -          | 117,575     |             |
|                          |           | 340,818    |             | \$1,622,515 |
| <i>Silver:</i>           |           |            |             |             |
| Half dollars - - -       | 3,546,000 | -          | 1,773,000   |             |
| Quarter dollars - - -    | 832,000   | -          | 208,000     |             |
| Dimes - - -              | 1,992,500 | -          | 199,250     |             |
| Half dimes - - -         | 2,255,000 | -          | 112,750     |             |
|                          |           | 8,625,500  |             | 2,293,000   |
| <i>Copper:</i>           |           |            |             |             |
| Cents - - -              | -         | 6,370,200  | -           | 63,702      |
| Whole number of pieces - | -         | 15,336,518 | Whole value | 3,979,217   |



## B.

*Statement of deposits of gold, for coinage, at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, 1838.*

|                                                    |   |   |   |          |             |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------|-------------|
| The deposits of gold, for coinage, amount to       | - | - | - | -        | \$1,624,500 |
| Of which was received from the United States, viz: |   |   |   |          |             |
| Virginia                                           | - | - | - | \$55,000 |             |
| North Carolina                                     | - | - | - | 66,000   |             |
| South Carolina                                     | - | - | - | 13,000   |             |
| Georgia                                            | - | - | - | 36,000   |             |
| Alabama                                            | - | - | - | 200      |             |
| Tennessee                                          | - | - | - | 1,500    |             |
|                                                    |   |   |   | <hr/>    | \$171,700   |
| Coins of the United States, of old standard        | - | - | - | -        | 5,000       |
| Coins and bullion from Europe                      | - | - | - | -        | 1,075,000   |
| Coins and bullion from Mexico and South America    | - | - | - | -        | 366,000     |
| Bullion from Africa                                | - | - | - | -        | 6,000       |
| Jewelry                                            | - | - | - | -        | 800         |
|                                                    |   |   |   | <hr/>    | 1,624,500   |

## C.

*Statement of the annual amounts of deposits of gold, for coinage, at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, from the mines of the United States.*

|      | Virginia. | North Carolina. | South Carolina. | Georgia.  | Tennessee. | Various sources. | Total.    |
|------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1824 | -         | \$5,000         | -               | -         | -          | -                | \$5,000   |
| 1825 | -         | 17,000          | -               | -         | -          | -                | 17,000    |
| 1826 | -         | 20,000          | -               | -         | -          | -                | 20,000    |
| 1827 | -         | 21,000          | -               | -         | -          | -                | 21,000    |
| 1828 | -         | 46,000          | -               | -         | -          | -                | 46,000    |
| 1829 | \$2,500   | 134,000         | \$3,500         | -         | -          | -                | 140,000   |
| 1830 | 24,000    | 204,000         | 26,000          | \$212,000 | -          | -                | 466,000   |
| 1831 | 26,000    | 294,000         | 22,000          | 176,000   | \$1,000    | \$1,000          | 520,000   |
| 1832 | 34,000    | 458,000         | 45,000          | 140,000   | 1,000      | -                | 678,000   |
| 1833 | 104,000   | 475,000         | 66,000          | 216,000   | 7,000      | -                | 868,000   |
| 1834 | 62,000    | 380,000         | 38,000          | 415,000   | 3,000      | -                | 898,000   |
| 1835 | 60,400    | 263,500         | 42,400          | 319,000   | 100        | 12,200           | 698,500   |
| 1836 | 62,000    | 148,100         | 55,200          | 201,400   | 300        | -                | 467,000   |
| 1837 | 52,100    | 116,900         | 29,400          | 83,600    | -          | -                | 282,000   |
| 1838 | 55,000    | 66,000          | 13,000          | 36,000    | 1,500      | 200              | 171,700   |
|      | <hr/>     | <hr/>           | <hr/>           | <hr/>     | <hr/>      | <hr/>            | <hr/>     |
|      | 482,000   | 2,648,500       | 340,500         | 1,799,900 | 13,900     | 13,400           | 5,298,200 |



## D.

*Statement of deposits of silver, for coinage, at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, 1838.*

|                                                |   |   |   |             |             |
|------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| The deposits of silver, for coinage, amount to | - | - | - |             |             |
| Of which there was in Mexican dollars          | - | - | - |             | \$2,301,200 |
| Dollars of South America                       | - | - | - | \$1,820,400 |             |
| Five-franc pieces of France                    | - | - | - | 15,200      |             |
| Other coins                                    | - | - | - | 155,300     |             |
| Bullion in bars, plate, amalgam, &c.           | - | - | - | 60,400      |             |
|                                                | - | - | - | 249,900     |             |
|                                                |   |   |   |             | 2,301,200   |

## E.

*Statement of deposits, for coinage, at the branch mints, to the 31st December, 1838.*

| GOLD.                                  |   |   |   | U. S. bullion. | Foreign. | Total.    |
|----------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------|----------|-----------|
| Charlotte branch, North Carolina       | - | - | - | \$127,000      | \$3,600  | \$130,600 |
| Dahlonega branch, Georgia              | - | - | - | 135,700        | 6,100    | 141,800   |
| New Orleans branch, Louisiana          | - | - | - | 700            | 39,900   | 40,600    |
|                                        |   |   |   | 263,400        | 49,600   | 313,000   |
| SILVER.                                |   |   |   |                |          |           |
| New Orleans branch, Louisiana          | - | - | - | -              | -        | 237,000   |
| Whole amount deposited at the branches | - | - | - | -              | -        | 550,000   |
| RECAPITULATION.                        |   |   |   |                |          |           |
| Deposited at the Charlotte branch      | - | - | - | -              | -        | 130,600   |
| Deposited at the Dahlonega branch      | - | - | - | -              | -        | 141,800   |
| Deposited at the New Orleans branch    | - | - | - | -              | -        | 277,600   |
|                                        |   |   |   |                |          | \$550,000 |

## F.

*Amount of coinage at the branch mints within the year 1838.*

| MINTS.      | GOLD.        |                 |                     |          | SILVER. |          | Total.  |          |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
|             | Half eagles. | Quarter eagles. | W'le No. of pieces. | Value.   | Dimes.  | Value.   | Pieces. | Value.   |
| Charlotte   | 12,886       | 7,894           | 20,780              | \$84,165 | -       | -        | 20,780  | \$84,165 |
| Dahlonega   | 20,583       | -               | 20,583              | 102,915  | -       | -        | 20,583  | 102,915  |
| New Orleans | -            | -               | -                   | -        | 402,430 | \$40,243 | 402,430 | 40,243   |
| Total       | 33,469       | 7,894           | 41,363              | 187,080  | 402,430 | 40,243   | 443,793 | 227,323  |



G.  
*Recapitulation of deposits and coinage at the Mint and its Branches for the year 1838.*

| MINTS.         | DEPOSITES.       |                    |                    |                    | COINAGE. |           |           |           |         |            |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|
|                | GOLD.            |                    |                    | SILVER.            | GOLD.    |           | SILVER.   |           | COPPER. |            |
|                | U. S. gold.      | Foreign gold.      | Total of gold.     |                    | Pieces.  | Value.    | Pieces.   | Value.    | Pieces. | Value.     |
| Philadelphia - | Dollars. 171,700 | Dollars. 1,452,800 | Dollars. 1,624,500 | Dollars. 2,301,200 | 340,818  | 1,622,515 | 8,625,500 | 2,293,000 | 63,702  | 15,336,518 |
| Charlotte -    | 127,000          | 3,600              | 130,600            | -                  | 20,780   | 84,165    | -         | -         | -       | 20,780     |
| Dahlonaga -    | 135,700          | 6,100              | 141,800            | -                  | 20,583   | 102,915   | -         | -         | -       | 20,583     |
| New Orleans -  | 700              | 39,900             | 40,600             | 237,000            | -        | -         | 402,430   | 40,243    | -       | 402,430    |
|                | 435,100          | 1,502,400          | 1,937,500          | 2,538,200          | 382,181  | 1,809,595 | 9,027,930 | 2,333,243 | 63,702  | 15,780,311 |
|                |                  |                    |                    |                    |          |           |           |           |         | 4,206,540  |



W (100)

Mint of the United States.  
(Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.,  
transmitting a package sent by the  
U. S. Consul at Leipzig, containing a  
series of coins, with a statement of the  
legal regulations of the coinage in the  
Kingdom of Saxony.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



101

Mint of the United States.  
Dec. 11th, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, to-night, of your letter of yesterday, in which you speak of the long delay, from New Orleans, of the *Mutual Refiner* recently appointed to succeed Mr. Maswell; and I received, at the same time, a letter from the Superintendent of the St. Orleans Mint, Mr. Kennedy, in which he writes — "Dr. Riddell, it is said, will certainly be here, by the 10th of this month." It seems that Dr. Riddell was engaged, at the time of his nomination, in a geological exploration, at Texas, and that his friends were not able to convey a letter to him, so that he may return to St. Orleans uninformed of his appointment, and quite innocent of the inconvenience caused by his long absence. I hope that he is, by this time, in the exercise of his functions. I regret this delay exceedingly, and feared some such consequence of the appointment of an absentee; but Dr. Riddell appeared to me to be a very eligible candidate, and I had really no other that I could offer to your attention.

Very respectfully, your obed. Servt.,

Wm. Lewis Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,  
Director.



*M* 102

Min<sup>try</sup> of the United States,  
Dec. 19. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on the 16th inst., of a package, transmitted through you from the Consul at Hamburg, and containing specimens of coins, and communications relating thereto.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

To/

Mr. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of Treasury. }



W

103

Minist of the United States,  
Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

Throwing your anxiety respecting the long continued absence of Dr. Riddell from the New Orleans Minist, and the delay in commencing its operations, I send you herewith a copy of a letter just received from Mr. Cammack.

The making of ingots and their delivery to the Coin, may perhaps be justified by the urgent and peculiar circumstances of the case - but it was certainly irregular, and must be assumed by Dr. Riddell, as his own act, after he shall enter upon his official functions. I will give the proper instructions as to this matter.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,  
(Director.)

*file*

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



W. Copy. 104

Sir,

I have just heard that Dr. Riddle has arrived in a Steam-Boat which came in an hour ago from Galveston.

With the assistance of Mr. Levick, I have been able to get ingots of silver enough made to keep the Coiner at work, tho' not as many as he could have used. I hope that we may yet, before the 1st of January, be able to pay all the certificates we have out.

To-day the first delivery of Coins was made by Mr. Tyler - 50,000 dimes."

I am truly yours,

(Signed) A. C. Cammack."

"Thursday Evening,  
Dec. 5. 1839."

"To/

Dr. R. M. Patterson."



M

105

Mint of the United States,  
Dec. 20. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 18th  
inst., with a box containing the reserved  
coins for the Annual assay transmitted  
from the New Orleans Mint.

I have no further information from  
this Mint, since that conveyed in the let-  
ter of Mr. Cammack, of which I sent  
you a copy on the 16th inst.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury. }



ack M 106

Mint of the United States.  
Dec. 23d, 1839.

Sir,

A letter of the 9th inst., just  
received from the Superintendent of  
the New Orleans Mint, mentions that  
the new Moulder & Refiner, Dr. Tid-  
del, was in his place, and would  
probably enter upon the discharge  
of his duties the following day.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
P. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To  
Hon. Lewis Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



M 107

Mint of the United States.  
Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to send you,  
enclosed, the bond and oath of of-  
fice of Dr. John L. Riddell, as  
Melter and Refiner of the Branch  
Mint at New Orleans.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
P. M. Tattersall,  
Director.

Ever &c with respect  
an affectional guardian

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury.



W (108)

Mint of the United States.  
Dec. 30th, 1839.

Sir,

After the building of this Mint was finished, a set of drawings, consisting, I think, of plans, elevations and sections of the work, was sent to the Treasury Department. No copy of these drawings was retained at the Mint, and I am now desirous of having such a copy. May I ask you to do me the favor of causing the drawings to be sought out and sent to me? They shall be returned to you when the copies are made.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful servant,  
P. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To Mr. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of the Treasury.



M. 109

Mint of the United States.  
Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
inst., with the package transmitted  
from the Dahlmeza Mint, con-  
taining 13 pieces of gold coin, amounting  
to \$57.50, received for the Annual  
Assay.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful Servant,  
P. M. Patterson,

Director.

P.S. I have also received a package of coins, and  
a communication relating thereto from Mr. Task,  
U.S. Consul at Surinam, and forwarded by you  
on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst.

Wm. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



110  
Mint of the United States  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 1839.

Sir,

In the Globe of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>, there is a series of remarks on the New Orleans Mint consisting principally of extracts from papers of your City, with regard to which it may be proper that I should give some explanations to the Treasury department. For this purpose, I beg leave to make of you the following inquiries

1<sup>st</sup> When did you commence Coining?

2<sup>nd</sup> Were you supplied from Philadelphia, with the necessary machinery, apparatus, and materials required for your operation, or do you think that you have had reasonable grounds for complaint in this respect, and that this has been a prominent cause for the scanty Coinage of last year?

3<sup>rd</sup> When were the operations of the Mint suspended, to allow the unacclimated officers and men to leave New Orleans; and when were the operations resumed by their return?

4<sup>th</sup> Did you not consider this suspension, for the first hot season, an act of prudence and propriety?

5<sup>th</sup> How are the operations of the Mint now going forward? Have you more than one press at work? Have you yet coined any thing but dimes and half dimes? If so, what other Coins? What are your immediate prospects as to Coinage?

6<sup>th</sup> How much has been deposited at your Mint?



2  
for Coinage: of this how much has been paid?

7<sup>th</sup> State the whole amount of your Coinage up to the date of your report.

8<sup>th</sup> If you can learn how much foreign Silver and Gold has been imported into New Orleans, since the opening of your Mint, I should be very glad to have this information; and, if possible, I should like to know how much of this was in ~~the~~ uncoined bullion.

Very Respectfully  
Your faithful Servant  
R. M. Patterson  
Director

(Signed)

2  
David Bradford Esq.  
Supt of U.S. Mint,  
New Orleans



3

U. S. Mint New Orleans  
April 1839

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, in which you propose the following inquiry -  
"1<sup>st</sup> When did you commence Coining?" On the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1838

"2<sup>nd</sup> Where you supplied from Philadelphia with the necessary machinery, apparatus & materials required for your operation, or do you think that you have had reasonable grounds for complaint in this respect, & that this has been a prominent cause of the scanty Coinage of last year?"

In the Assayer, Melter & Refiner, & Coiner departments, I believe that the necessary machinery, apparatus & materials requisite to commence operations were supplied. The reports of the Assayer and Melter & Refiner to that effect were quite satisfactory. The report of the Coiner however would seem to indicate that the causes of delay and of the scanty Coinage of the last year are to be found in his department. In his first report dated 1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1838 he says "Considerable delay has been occasioned and some future inconvenience may be apprehended from the injudicious departure of the person employed to place the said Engine (machinery) from the plan given him. For instead of placing the Engine in the middle of the room as was intended he has placed it  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet towards the annealing furnace, which besides destroying the symmetry of the room, & violating



the rules of good taste, throws the annealing furnaces away from their foundation previously laid & settled, rendering almost useless the room beyond designed for whitening, clearing & otherwise on the opposite side of the building, bringing the line shaft intended for driving the Coining presses, on an unequal distance out of its proper place. To these remarks I feel bound to add, that the entire machinery in the principal story of the building is found to be too much too low for the floor " again " The Coining presses of which there are three of different sizes, will all require material alterations to render them efficient & durable. But the largest may be gotten ready for temporary use in three or four weeks. The in the mean time the other two may be undergoing a more thorough preparation. Of the other machinery & the minor apparatus, I need only say, that the former are all of a piece more or less unfinished, & that the latter require more time to arrange and put them in operation " In the second report. (Feby 27<sup>th</sup> 1838 he says " I have used as possible diligence in forwarding my preparations in order to be ready to commence operations in the course of the ensuing month. Two of the Coining presses are nearly ready for the reception of the dies " July 31<sup>st</sup> he assigns as a reason for having coined only one description of Coinage, " The very limited number of men employed in his department " which he states " has rendered it impracticable in our present stage of advancement to keep up a supply of planchets of even a single kind, for the full operation of a single Coining press, & at the same time to do justice to the



branches which are in the rear - " again " a great cause  
 ing & delay has been found in the imperfection of the rolls - It  
 should be a vain task to undertake to enumerate all the various  
 hindrances & disappointments which have tended to retard  
 progress, such as the want for a long time of Weighing  
Balances, & to the present time of any thing like suitable weights  
 cipal. From these extracts, I cannot but think if the  
 or Thomas be right that the defective & unfinished state of all  
 ate machinery in the Coining department, has been a promi-  
 nent cause of the scanty Coinage of last year, & that in  
 respect there has been reasonable ground for complaint.  
 The assurances of Mr Gordon & the statement contained in  
 the annual report relative to the Mint & its Branches to the  
 President in Jan'y 1838, made me feel authorized to  
 reply to the numerous enquiries of the Citizens as to the  
 time, when the operation of the Mint would commence,  
 that I could not entertain a doubt of our being in full  
 operation early in the Spring of 1838, & that a very efficient  
 coinage would be the result of our operation during that  
 year. Soon after the first deposit was made by Messrs  
 Hazard & Co, Mr C. I. Forstall of that firm stated to me that  
 he wished to deposit \$300,000 provided he could have  
 positive assurance of its being coined by the first of  
 July - I asked Mr Tyler if it could be done & he expressed  
 himself confidently that it could with certainty - Mr.  
 Forstall however finding that no coinage was going on,  
 did not make the deposit. How far Mr Tyler was  
 deceived is evident from the fact that up to the 1<sup>st</sup> August



6  
but \$40,000 was coined - aware of the disappointment  
of the public & of the injury that would result to the Branch  
Mint. I urged Mr Tyler by repeated notes & verbally, to  
push on his operations as rapidly as possible. He always  
encouraged me with the hope that in a few days every  
thing would be in full operation - but I was invariably  
disappointed by the intelligence of new defects in the  
machinery, rendering more repairs indispensable & further  
delay unavoidable.

3<sup>rd</sup> When were the operations of the Mint sus-  
pended to allow the unacclimated officers & men to  
leave New Orleans, & when were the operations resumed  
by their return? "

The operations of the Mint were suspended  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. business was resumed in the assaying  
& melting & refining departments early in November -  
Coining about the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1839.

4<sup>th</sup> Did you not consider the suspension for  
the first hot season, an act of prudence & propriety? "

I did, but I am now convinced from  
the information of experienced Physicians, that it is only  
by remaining here during the summer that Northern men  
can be acclimated, & that no advantage whatever can be  
gained in that respect, by their leaving the City during the  
hot season - I am moreover persuaded that the welfare  
of this institution requires that it should be kept in full  
operation the whole year unless the Yellow fever should  
prevail - as much Bullion arrives during the summer



7  
months from Mexico as in any other part of the year and if  
northern officers & workmen cannot be found who will  
to incur that risk. I am satisfied that both officers and  
workmen acclimated & fully qualified for their respective  
duties may be found in this City.

5<sup>th</sup> How are the operations of the Mint now  
going forward? Have you more than one press at work?  
Have you yet coined any thing but Cimes & half Cimes?  
If so what other coins? What are your immediate  
prospects as to Coinage? "

The operations of the Mint  
go on much better at present than they did last year,  
though a great change must yet take place, before the  
expectations of the Government & the public will be realized.  
We have never had more than one press at work at a  
time, nor have we now. Besides Cimes & half Cimes  
we have coined half Dollars - as to our immediate pro-  
spects of Coinage, I can see no reason to induce me to hope  
that without some decided change, we shall ever do much  
better than we have already done - as to the supply of  
Gold Bullion, I feel no anxiety - The Mint I believe will  
always be supplied with Bullion when Depositors  
can be accommodated with Coin.

6<sup>th</sup> How much has been deposited at  
your mint for Coinage? of this, how much has  
been paid? "

The amount deposited for Coinage  
up to the present time is £332.545.32. of which there



has been of Silver  $\$261,659.15$  and of Gold  $\$70,936.17$  of this there has been paid  $\$226,757.97$  - being of Silver  $\$204,444.23$  & on account of Gold  $\$22,263.74$  - Out of the fund provided by the Secy of the Treasury  $\$135,000$  - in Coins of the Mint  $\$91,757.97$ .

7<sup>th</sup> State the whole amount of your Coinage up to the date of your report? "

$\$116,403.40$  in Coins, half Cimes & half Dollars.

8<sup>th</sup> If you can learn how much foreign Silver & Gold has been imported into New Orleans since the opening of your Mint I should be very glad to have this information & if possible I should like to know how much or any in uncoined Bullion? "

On application at the Custom House, I have ascertained that there was reported from the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1838 to March 24<sup>th</sup> 1839. of foreign Bullion  $\$1,453,337$  - of which about  $\$70,000$  was Gold - The Collector informed me that he was satisfied that much more had been brought in unreported - Formerly nearly all the Bullion imported from Mexico was in Bars - Since a heavy duty has been laid on Bullion exported, the proportions have been reversed, so that at the present time, about  $\$300,000$  is the supposed estimate of the amount imported from Mexico in Bars - But from the information I have lately received, I am induced to believe from the great benefit which has resulted from the few experimental deposits of uncoined Bullion that



Contd 110

9.

have been made at this Mint & the assurances of Gentlemen engaged in the Mexican trade in this City & of others who reside in Mexico that the amount of uncoined Bullion will hereafter be immensely increased. In former years as much as 8 millions of Bullion have been recd in this City in one year from Mexico. There is no reason to doubt that Commercial prosperity will, now that peace has been concluded between France & Mexico be speedily restored -

Your Faithful Servant  
David Bradford  
Supt.

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans.

April 27<sup>th</sup> 1839

Sir,

As the scarcity of Coinage at this Br. Mint has become a subject of much public enquiry and animadversion and as I have reason to believe that it is about to draw the particular attention of the Government, I beg leave to submit to your consideration the foregoing correspondence between the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia and myself.

Yours,

Levi Woodbury  
Secy of the Treas.

Very Respectfully

Your Humble Servant

David Bradford  
Supt.

copy of the letter from the Director  
I had before now sent you the letter  
again at my request, I think



M (111)

United States Branch Mint  
Treasurer's Office New Orleans Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 1839

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Levi Woodbury  
Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Treasury

Sir

I have the honor of  
acknowledging the receipt of your "Circular to  
deposit in Banks, Collectors, and Receivers" dated the  
23<sup>rd</sup> of July last together with your accompanying letter  
of instruction, whose contents have been duly noted, and  
the directions therein contained shall be complied with.

Very respectfully, Your Obedt. Serv<sup>t</sup>

Edm: Norstall  
Treas of Br: Mint (N.O.)



J. Parker

112

Mobile 25<sup>th</sup> July 1839

Dear Sir

We understand there have been some charges preferred against the officers of the mint in New Orleans, if so, and when an any investigation going on, we will come over, and will say what we lost by them.

W. Felton had \$2,000 recoin and lost \$180

G. Davis Jr had \$1,000 in gold and exchanged it for coins and lost \$186.

(Signed)

W. Felton

Dear Sir

George Davis Junr  
New Orleans July 27. 1839

You have herewith a copy of a Letter this day recd, there are many other complaints, of a similar character, the truth of which I know nothing about.

The door keeper at the mint, who was to impeach the testimony of Cassin, is the man whom Mr. Tyler suspected of purloining coin as a



reported to the Director, and he is still continuing  
in the employment of the Mint.

To the Honble

Levi Woodbury

Secretary of the Treasury

Very respectfully

Yours obt. Servt.

James B. Archer

Enclosed is a copy of the

to the Director

of the

with the project

that he calls

on the project

affairs for



W 113  
U. S. B. Mint New Orleans  
June 20<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Hon.

Levi Woodbury Secy of the Treasry of the U. S.  
Sir,

I have the honor to say in answer to your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo, that the bullion, for which the Certificates of the Treasurer of this Branch Mint have issued, has changed its state and cannot be identified and returned to the depositors; particularly that of which I made mention in my letter to you of the 18<sup>th</sup> ultimo: that none of the holders of our Certificates have applied for a return of bullion up to this time or not being paid in coins the sums called for in the Certificates, although great Complaints are made at their not being paid: that on the fourteenth instant, a Notary on the part of the Commercial Bank, Called on the Treasurer of this Branch Mint for payment of Certificates issued by him amounting to \$21,625 <sup>94</sup>/<sub>100</sub> which not being paid, the Treasurer not being in funds, were protested.

The following is a Copy of a letter received by our Treasurer on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, viz:

" New Orleans 15<sup>th</sup> June 1839.

" Dear Sir,

" This Morning we received two protests for the non payment of your Certificates dated 24<sup>th</sup> January last

" One for Gold Bullion \$6,513.33

" One for Silver " 47.26

" \$6560.59

" Your Refusal to pay is injurious



" to our interest & to our Credit, and unless you settle  
" for these Certificates at the Commercial Bank in  
" full within three days with the expense of Protest, we shall  
" claim \$1000 Damages & three per Cent per month interest  
" from date till Paid.

Very Respectfully  
signed  
Fr. Ganahl & Co."

It is stated in your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo  
that it is not to be expected that the Branch can execute more than  
a reasonable amount of Coinage within a given time. The expectations of the public, I think, have been reasonable and invariably  
disappointed. The Director in a letter to me of the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1837,  
estimates our Coinage in 1838, to be about \$3,000,000. In a letter I had  
the honor to write you about the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1838, after having  
consulted the Coiner on the matter, I stated that "the House  
(Legarde & Co) that made the deposit yesterday wish this Branch  
to coin for them by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June next \$300,000. which I was  
happy to inform them they might rely would be done on their  
depositing the bullion". On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1838, the Coiner  
reported to me that "the largest one [of the three Steam  
Coining Presses which we have] may be gotten ready for  
temporary use in three or four weeks". Had this been done  
as was urged by the Director in his letter to me which I showed  
to the Coiner, and myself, we should have been under no  
necessity of calling on your Department - we could have  
easily paid all of our Certificates and avoided embarrassment.



As it is, we have lost the Confidence of the Public.  
Many of our Certificates have been protested and they  
are now refused by all the Banks and Bullion is  
seeking another destination.

I have the honor to be  
Your Faithful Servant  
David Bradford  
Sup<sup>t</sup>

Send a copy of them  
to the Committee at Phil.  
with a request to take  
all <sup>further</sup> appropriate steps in  
addition to submit  
them which have been  
to remedy. circumstances  
present delays. I must  
be as just the  
Public expectations  
W

Clerk. of.  
to B.  
of London  
which  
a copy  
of my  
letter to  
David B.  
W



144  
U. S. Mint New Orleans  
March 14<sup>th</sup> 1839.

W  
Hon.

Levi Woodbury, Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Treas<sup>y</sup> of the U. S.  
Sir,

I have to inform you that the weights designed for this Branch Mint have not been received; that I am informed by the Director that they are in the charge of Professor Hessler at Washington City for the purpose of being adjusted and have been for a great length of time. I have therefore to request that they be sent on as soon as practicable as they are most urgently needed by the Treasurer, the Minter and Refiner and the Coiner in this Branch Mint.

I have also to request to be furnished with the Acts of Congress for the years 1835-'36 and '37. The only pamphlet we have, of the Laws is that of "the second Session of the twenty fifth Congress." If it can be allowed I request that this Branch Mint be furnished with a complete set or a digest of the Laws of the United States.

I send by this Mail a small box, containing assay clippings for an assay at the Mint, to your address to be forwarded under your frank to Dr. R. M. Patterson, Director of the Mint, Philad<sup>a</sup> as I am by him directed to do

I have the honor to be,

Your Faithful Servant  
David Bradford  
Superintendent



U S B Mint New Orleans  
May 8<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir,

Yesterday morning the enclosed account was presented to me by Mr. Gordon, the Commissioner for this Building, and Messrs. Mitchell and Fox the Contractors with a request that I would order the Treasurer to pay the same. I stated that I would write you to day on the subject. Mr. Gordon said that he would also send you his account in full. That the enclosed account was the result of an Arbitration between himself & the Contractors. As I do not know that this matter devolves on me I shall not approve it nor give a warrant on our Treasurer for its payment unless so instructed by you directly or through the Director.

I have written to Dr. Patterson by this Mail enclosing him a Copy of the account herewith and have to request that I be furnished with such information and instructions as to you may seem proper and requisite.

You will find by the quarterly accounts rendered by the Treasurer of this Branch Mint to your department that three Contractors have been paid for work done by them and not included in the Contract with the approval of the Commissioner the sums of \$6444.21 on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1838 and \$1321.40 on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1838.



Mr Gordon still has the plans and drawings  
of the building. He told me he would hand them  
over to me when he settled his accounts. I  
have never seen them but once about the first  
week in January last. I know nothing about the  
alteration of the plans with your approbation  
of the same, and deem it my duty to give you  
the trouble I have done in this letter.

Very Respectfully  
Your Humble Servant  
David Bradford  
Sup<sup>t</sup>

Ever yours, or the

W

Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Levi Woodbury  
Sec<sup>y</sup> Treas<sup>r</sup>  
Washington City



U. S. B. Mint New Orleans

May 13<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Hon. Levi Woodbury, Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Treas<sup>y</sup> of the U. S.  
Sir

I have to express to you, with deep regret, that there is great dissatisfaction manifested by those persons who make deposits of bullion for Coinage in this Branch Mint, and in the public generally, at the delays and disappointments attending the operations of this institution. I have bestowed my utmost reflection on the causes of these delays and disappointments with a scrupulous regard to the relations subsisting between the other Officers and myself, and I thought proper to communicate to you on the 27<sup>th</sup> ulto. a copy of my reply to certain enquiries made me by the Director on the 1<sup>st</sup> of last month in respect to this public sentiment of dissatisfaction at the operations of this Branch Mint, to which I would now respectfully invite your attention. Since I made you that communication other developments too numerous, and which I deem unnecessary to detail, have perfectly satisfied me that the expectations of the Government, and the public in the attainment of the objects for which this Branch Mint was established, will continue to be disappointed unless the Officers to whose charge at this time is committed the Coining and the Melting and Refining departments be removed, and others devoted to the public interest and the fulfilment of their official duties be substituted in their place. Whatever may be the motives of these officers in producing this public dissatisfaction, whether from aversion to the views of the administration of the Government, or otherwise, their conduct is such as to be and actually is destructive of all harmony (leaving no hope of its being restored) between them and the other officers, and fatal to the true interests of the institution. I have therefore a painful official duty to perform - that of reporting



to you, for the decision of the President, that Rufus Tyler, Coiner, and James Maxwell, Melter and Refiner, in this Branch Mint, ought to be removed.

Should further details and proofs be required on this application I am prepared promptly to furnish them.

That the public service may not suffer by delay, in case the removals applied for be made, I am advised, at this time to communicate to you the names of such persons as I would recommend for the appointments. I therefore, in such case, respectfully recommend, M. P. Denney, N<sup>o</sup> 530, Market Street, Philadelphia, late foreman in the Coining Department in this Branch Mint, for the appointment of Coiner, and Peter Edward Trastour, native of France, and a naturalized Citizen of the United States for upwards of four <sup>of this City</sup> years, for the appointment of Melter and Refiner, in this Branch Mint. I name M. Denney with full confidence, as to his skill and competency, and the circumstance of his having passed last summer in this City and consequently being acclimated is an additional motive of no light import. Edward H. Brown, also late in the Coining department in this B. Mint, and previously thoroughly trained in the Mint at Philadelphia, is fully competent to carry on the business till the appointment might be filled satisfactorily. My knowledge of M. Brown is very limited; he may be fully worthy the appointment, but I am far more informed as respects M. Denney which has induced me to name him. By the next mail I will, I expect, have the honor to forward you satisfactory recommendations of the above named gentlemen. Before concluding I would observe that M. Trastour is a gentleman of science and intimately acquainted with all the operations of the Mint, having had practical experience in France and Mexico, and being acclimated and married in this City, I should consider him a great acquisition to the institution.

Very Respectfully  
Your Humble Servant  
David Bradford  
Subt.



Attends this tenderly

W

Send a copy of this to the  
for his address & action - State to him  
seems needed to make a proper decision  
I want you write to the  
Dept. of the Interior at Washington  
to make a copy of the report to him  
fully an  
the Secretary  
of the office  
independent  
the state  
the Bank  
W



117  
U. S. B. Mint, New Orleans  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 1839

Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Secy of the Treasury  
of the U. S.

Sir,

I have to inform you that I  
have just made an arrangement with the Atchafalaya Rail  
Road & Bk Co (of which J. W. Breedlove the Collector is President) to  
furnish the Treasurer of this Branch Mint with forty thousand dollars  
(\$40,000) to take up the Certificates of Deposits of Bullion for Coinage  
issued from this Branch Mint, and which are urgently required by the  
holders to be paid, of which I have also informed you by this mail,  
and I have to request that you have placed to the Credit of  
said Bank said sum of forty thousand dollars in the Mint  
at Philadelphia, and that you have me informed of the same  
by the return of the Express Mail.

If the above requisition cannot be  
effected I would then respectfully request that you have  
me furnished with a transfer draft on the Mint at Philadelphia  
for the sum of forty thousand dollars for the above purpose  
as was done by your department on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1838 (N<sup>o</sup> 2271)  
and was paid on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1839, by the Director; and do me  
the favor to have the transfer draft forwarded to me by the Express  
Mail.

And if other arrangements be  
preferred by you, that I be informed of the same by the return  
of the Express Mail.

Very Respectfully  
Your Humble Servant  
David Bradford  
Clk.



W 118

U S B Mint New Orleans  
May 20<sup>th</sup> 1839

Sir

I have the honor herewith to remit  
you agreeably to my instructions a Box containing  
Assay pieces taken from Standard Gold and Silver  
ingots in this Branch Mint, to be forwarded under  
your frank to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia

Very Respectfully

Secy of the Mint  
of the Branch  
Your Most Obedient  
Humble Servant

David Bradford  
Sup<sup>t</sup>

To the Hon,  
Levi Woodbury  
Secy of the Treas<sup>y</sup>  
Washington City  
Dist. Col.



219

U. S. Mint New Orleans  
May 25<sup>th</sup> 1839

Hon

Levi Woodbury Secy of the Treasry of the U. S.  
Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst and beg leave to observe that, in reference to the unpleasant occurrence, to which you alluded, at this Branch Mint, I have investigated it with the utmost attention and solicitude and communicated to Dr Patterson on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. my opinion on the matter with accompanying documents.

I cannot but regret that instead of referring such matters to me as Superintendent of this Branch Mint, and permitting me to investigate fully and calmly and communicate my decision and all the facts to Dr Patterson, Messrs Tyler and Maxwell are in the habit of writing letters at the off start to Dr Patterson without deigning to communicate the same to me, prejudging every question and attacking every Southern Officer and every individual that I appoint.

I remain, with the profoundest respect

Your Much Obligated

Humble Servant  
David Bradford  
Superintendent

Adly. & off. You will be  
satisfied on this point that the  
Dumite of the Mint may be  
caused com. by the  
sped by the Secy. & so that all



120  
U. S. B. Mint New Orleans  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir,

Levi Woodbury Secy of the Treas. of the U. S.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. I had the honor to transmit you a copy of a correspondence that had just taken place between Messrs Ganahl & W. Breedlove the Collector and Edmund Forstall Esq. Treasurer of this Branch Mint, and from the apparent urgency of the case I deem it my duty to address you again on the same subject.

Yesterday a Certificate issued by Mr. Forstall, the Treasurer, to Messrs E. D. Hyde & Co. influential Merchants of this City extensively engaged in the Mexican trade, for a deposit of hammered dollars, deposited in this Branch Mint by them for coinage, was presented for payment agreeably to appointment, which the Treasurer was not able to do, not having received from the Coiner, as he had promised a delivery of coins; the treasurer then observed that the Certificate might be made available if deposited in one of our Banks: to which it was replied - Your Certificates are now refused by every Bank in the City, and the cause assigned is that they can never get paid, when they require the specie, that they send over and over again and receive promises of payment which are never fulfilled.



and that they have no longer any Confidence  
in this Branch Mint.

Public opinion is fast arraying  
itself against us, and it is evident not only to me but  
to all the friends of the administration and of this  
Branch Mint, in this City, that, unless there is an  
Officer at the head of the Coining department of  
energy and fidelity as well as Capacity, this  
Branch Mint must inevitably go down.

I remain Your Much Obligated  
Humble Servant  
David Bradford  
Superintendent.

Albany

Enclosed you have

probably need my

letter of the

a copy of which

is enclosed.



for,

It  
ist  
d

Lat  
p

It  
to d  
be  
at  
the



that you will find, that if the  
letter can't easily cut all the paper in  
bubbles, then - you can at once relax it -  
if there seems further troubling delay - Also that



will be employed to wear on many sides 3 inches or more kind as  
is usual for other similar exhibits

when better is offered you can afford the parties  
whether it probably can be used for them  
50 days or not - so that they need  
not be afraid, readers want to them

Envelop Mail.  
Am. Soc. Sec. Woodbury,  
Secy of the Treas.  
Washington City  
Dist. Col.



I have no doubt  
that the money - all which  
be done by you  
in the way of pay-  
ments, which  
the power and  
organization of the  
Board will permit  
of every obstacle in the way  
removed as far as practicable

M 573 June 5  
Whean

But the country cannot justly expect  
that any amount of small coin-  
can be made within a short  
period - at so small an  
establishment - as it must  
be done even at the Western Union  
Though they have a right to expect & I hope will  
not be disappointed, that all reasonable quantities



U. S. B. Mint New Orleans  
May 18<sup>th</sup> 1839.  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, Secy of the Treasury of the U.S.

Sir, I deem it my duty to call your attention to the following correspondence that has just passed between Messrs Ganahl & Co Merchants in this City, Mr. Bredlow the Collector, and the Treasurer of this Branch Mint.

(Copy)

Edmund Forstall Esq New Orleans 14 May 1839  
Treasurer Branch Mint

Dear Sir

We had this morning presented to us your Certificate in our favor dated 24 January last No 31 for Gold Bullion to the amount of \$6,513.33  
4 " Silver " " " " " 47.26

May we ask, why these Certificates, which you promised to cash in a few weeks, from the time of the deposit was made have been refused ever since, tho' repeated applications have been made for the funds.

Very respectfully  
Fr. Ganahl & Co

U. S. B. Mint Treasurers Office  
New Orleans 16<sup>th</sup> May 1839.

Messrs Ganahl & Co

Gentlemen, I have received yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. and very much regret that the Comr has not put it in my power to redeem the promise that I was induced by his representations to make of early payment.

Respectfully

(signed) Edmund Forstall  
Tr. Br. Mint.



Edmund Forstall Esq.

Collectors Office  
New Orleans May 17<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir, Some six months or eight months since I deposited  
in the Commercial Bank several certificates of deposits of bullion  
and was this morning much surprised to be called on as endorser  
for the amount with a notice that the Bank had called several  
times and could not get the amount. I informed the President  
of the Bank that I could not pay the amount when the  
Certificate was [not] protested. This he said he would  
have done instantly, but at my request has agreed to  
postpone entering a protest until tomorrow. I wish, Sir,  
for the Credit of the Government you will not let these  
Certificates be protested, but will immediately provide  
coin and take them up.

Respectfully Yrs

(sig'd) Jas W Bredlove, Coll.

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans  
Treasurers Office May 17<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Jas Bredlove Esq.

Sir

In reply to your favor of this days  
date, I have only to express my deep regret that the Coin has  
not furnished me with the means of paying our Certificates.  
Complaints on this subject are increasing every day and Mr  
Bradford informs me that he will immediately write to  
the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject.

Respectfully

Ed. Forstall  
Tr. Tr. Mint.

(sig'd)



I assure you, Sir, that these two cases serve  
but as an illustration of the mortification that the Treasurer  
and myself have to experience almost every day. When  
Messrs Tyler and Maxwell, the Coiner and the Melter  
and Refiner, arrived here from Philadelphia, they were  
introduced to me, by letter by D.<sup>r</sup> Patterson the Director, as  
officers to whom I might refer for information on all  
occasions and in whom I might place the greatest  
confidence. This induced me, up to a very recent time,  
to suppose that the delays in coining were unavoidable.  
I am now convinced of the contrary and perceive  
that I have been deceived and that my confidence  
was misplaced. I have called on W. Bridgman and  
communicated to him frankly the state of affairs in this  
Branch Mint and that I had applied for the removal  
of these officers. He heartily approved of what I have  
done and is as well as myself convinced that unless a  
decided change takes place, public  
sentiment will soon be arrayed  
against this Branch Mint and  
I fear more fatal to this  
institution.

Very Respectfully, Your Humble  
Servant.

David Bradford  
Supt.



M 122

U S B Mint New Orleans  
June 26<sup>th</sup> 1839

To Mr. Levi Woodbury, Secy of the Treas. of the U.S.

Sir  
I have the honor to acknowledge the  
Receipt this day of your two letters, one of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
the other of the 27<sup>th</sup> ulto. together with the dies  
therein mentioned, viz; two pairs of diene dies and  
two pairs of half diene dies, for this Branch  
Mint.

Very Respectfully

Your Humble Servant

David Bradford  
Supy



M 123

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans.  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir,  
Levi Woodbury, Secy of the  
Treasury of the U. S.  
Sir,

I have the honor  
to acknowledge the receipt of your several  
letters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> March  
also the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March of the  
present year together with the dies which  
you therein informed me have been forwarded  
to this Branch Mint.

It did not before  
occur to me that I should apprise the  
Department as well as the Director of the  
arrivals of the dies which in future I shall  
not omit to do.

Very Respectfully  
Y<sup>r</sup> Hum. Servt.  
David Bradford, (Capt.)



See receipt.  
 appeal must  
 be made on  
 the 9<sup>th</sup> of June  
 it is of the  
 same it filed  
 with the  
 Comptroller  
 needed  
 124  
 W

U S B Mint New Orleans  
 June 8<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir,

Levi Woodbury, Secy of the Treasry of the U. S.

I have the honor of informing you that  
 your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ulto. was received by me on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.  
 that the Bond therein enclosed was executed yesterday; and  
 the surties approved by the Dist. Atty and herein  
 enclosed this day.

The Treasurer of this Branch Mint  
 requested me to enquire whether this Bond was in  
 place of or in addition to his previous Bond; and that  
 if his first Bond be hereby Cancelled, to request  
 that it be returned him.

I have the honor to be  
 Sir, Your Humble Servant  
 David Blodgett

When is the bond?

But in whatever view.

the former one, therefore must  
 remain in force like other  
 official bonds to secure  
 the public funds.



M 125

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans

June 19<sup>th</sup> 1839

Hon. Levi Woodbury, Secy of the Treas. of the U. S.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that Martin Gordon Senr Esq. Commissioner for this Building has just called on me to see if I would pay the account of Messrs Mitchell and Fox (of which I made mention to you in my letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> ultimo), or any part of it, and on shewing him your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, in which you say that our treasurer is put in funds in the sum of \$5000. for building Br. Mint at New Orleans. Mr. Gordon requested me to make you the following requisition, which I cheerfully do.

"Requisition for the sum of sixteen thousand eight hundred and eighty eight  $\frac{55}{100}$  Dollars for the following purposes, to wit;

Messrs Mitchell & Fox for extra work done on the Branch Mint in this City as per Vouchers forwarded in my letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> May last. Amount

\$16,888.55

"This sum deducted as estimated in your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> June instant."

5,000.00

\$11,888.55

I have the honor to be

Your faithful Servant

David Bradford

Sup.



The Honorable  
Lewis Woodberry  
Secretary of the Treasury

126  
Wash<sup>g</sup> D<sup>C</sup> June 20<sup>th</sup> 1829

Dear Sir, Altho I have not the  
pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you,  
yet as a firm supporter of the late & present admin<sup>n</sup>,  
allow me to address you on a point which I  
conceive to be essentially to a return to con-  
stitutional currency. I am Sir, your minister and  
its Branches, I am sorry to learn by a letter I  
received from Mr. Rufus Tyler of the Orleans  
Branch, that so much dissatisfaction exists with  
the Superintendent & his officers, that they have  
all called on Doctor Paterson, to order an examination  
into the propriety of their operations, & conduct of  
them all, I laid my letter before Dr. Paterson, & he  
thinks some he had received and his reply.  
Mr. Tyler supposing the Doctor would refer the  
case over to your department, requests me to give  
you such a character as I think him entitled to,  
both as an artist, and a man of Probity, which is the  
object of present communication, Mr. Tyler is said  
by the best judges to be a first rate Artist in his  
line, I have known him some 20 years, and believe  
him to have maintained as good a standing for  
Industry, & strict Integrity, as any man amongst us,  
such an one as will not be readily upstaged,  
in such an important place as he fills now,  
I don't see pretence to know any thing about the  
cause of this uneasiness amongst them, that is for  
you to judge of, but I do feel a strong desire that  
success may attend your efforts, in every branch, to  
bring about Independent Treasury, & at least in some  
good degree a return to specie circulation for the  
common purposes of business, which will go so far to



regulate under Bank Acts, Every day furnishes  
new evidence of just a satisfactory measure, It must  
be conceded the people come up close to this truth,  
but they are coming, & ultimately sanction it,  
yours Obedt<sup>ly</sup> & Respect<sup>ful</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

O Daniel Lowber  
Tanner Phil<sup>a</sup>

Adm. Mr. J  
with at the post  
time submit  
with Mr  
W



To the Editors of the Bee.

Mr. Bradford says in his letter published in the Bee of Saturday.

"Of Mr. Jacobs Barker's slanders, insinuations, false charges and misrepresentations I can take no further public notice."

If I have made any false charges or misrepresentations, or insinuated anything to the prejudice of Mr. Bradford, not warranted by the testimony no one could regret such an occurrence more than myself or be more willing to atone for the error, if any error there be.

Whether or not I was unjust to Mr. Bradford in my reply to the published wanton attack on me under his own signature, an intelligent public will decide when they are allowed a perusal of the testimony.

It would have been better for Mr. Bradford to have reflected before he so unnecessarily made war on me, a war uncalled for and entirely out of place in connection with the affairs of the mint; and before he chose his field of battle, the public newspapers, he also should have reflected, had he done so, he might have been saved the mortification of so soon beating a retreat.

Mr. Bradford says in his published letter assailing me that:

"In conclusion, the Bee may be assured that if Jacob Barker, or his clients will request or authorize, under their own signatures the publication, the whole correspondence between the superintendent of the branch mint, and the director at Philadelphia, and the treasury department at Washington, which resulted in the late investigation, and which contains all the subject matter of enquiry, and covers the whole ground, shall be presented to the public in the columns of the Bee itself."

Mr. Bradford must have a very limited view, or suppose the public to be destitute of ordinary intelligence; he writes to the director, charging his co-officers with high crimes; the director, not understanding, or unwilling to confide in his statements, replies, propounding sundry questions, to which Mr. Bradford answers, and applies to the government to have Messrs. Tyler and Maxwell removed; they continue incredulous, and order an investigation, which investigation resulted in establishing beyond the possibility of doubt, that Mr. Bradford was mistaken; that the facts were the reverse of those he had alleged; and yet he tells this community that the *correspondence*, which cannot contain a word of the testimony, covers the whole ground.

If I have made any errors, why does not Mr. Bradford confront me with the testimony? No one will think me so weak as to have intentionally exposed myself to prostration, as a statement not sustained by the testimony would do.

That there may be no mistake between Mr. Bradford and myself, I here certify, that the book of original entry of bullion received, had two leaves torn from it, the leaves torn up and thrown into the fire place; that the book was not paged, therefore, the detection would have been very difficult but for an accidental circumstance; that four of the entries on those leaves were not copied into the remaining leaves; that when the transaction was detected and exposed by Mr. Maxwell, the fragments of the torn leaves were gathered up and brought forth, and have been transmitted to the government by the commissioner; two of those entries were not on any other book of the mint, and no record remained of them, viz: 86.50 oz. of silver deposited by Gustavo Guerio on the 16th of April, 1839, and a similar amount by T. Villazaba on the 17th of April, 1839; besides another entry had been so altered and mutilated, as for it to be impossible, without the aid of other facts, to decipher it, and placed on the succeeding leaf as a true copy of the original entry, which was sworn to be true by the treasurer's clerk, the weigher, in relation to whom Mr. Bradford spoke thus in his publication:

"And the melter and refiner, principally for plotting the displacement of the weigh-master, who, from his station, is the main check upon any irregularity in the melting department."

[illegible]

entry 216 vol 4

If no voucher has been lost, I would ask Mr. Bradford, why he did not produce the receipt for \$200, which the 31st

stated all the facts, without any satisfactory explanation. When you read that part of his testimony relating to the suppressed book, you cannot but be amazed at the contrivances of these men. A very costly book, in the best possible state of preservation, containing about five hundred pages, on which not more than ten or fifteen had been written, put aside, and a new book, equally costly, procured at the expense of the United States, for the alleged reason that a red line or two had been drawn across an account—observe not an account re-copied into the new book, and that that account, and others of the original copies, were omitted in the new book. Remark from me cannot be necessary to convince you of the enormity of such conduct; and it was so much an object to have the new book in all things like the original book, that the latter was sent nearly a mile from the mint to the stationer's as a pattern.

Mr. Bradford being examined on behalf of Mr. Maxwell:

Ques. Did not Mr. Maxwell, previous to, and at the time of this settlement, apply to you for the monthly warrants for the delivery of the bullion?

Ans. He did not previous to that time, but did at a settlement, and frequently since; and it was agreed that they should be furnished agreeably to said settlement, and monthly afterwards.

Ques. Have they been furnished conformably with that agreement?

Ans. They have not; I did not press the matter because I expected the director.

Ques. How are the entries in the book entitled the weigher's book, made; are they original, or taken from some other book?

Ans. They are the record of my monthly reports taken from the registers.

Ques. In whose handwriting are the first pages of the weigher's book?

Ans. Mr. Richard Parker's.

Ans. Since the 1st of April last.

Ans. Since the 1st of April last.

Ques. Is there in the treasurer's office, a book similar in appearance, lettered the "weigher's book" on which the accounts are in the handwriting of the clerk who was in the employment of the mint at the time they professed to bear date?

Ans. There is a book labelled "weigher's book," in the handwriting of Mr. Lilly, who was employed in the month of June or July, 1838.

The pages in the handwriting of Mr. Lilly are 2, 3, 4 and 5, 30 and 31, 200 and 201.

The pages 6 and 7 are in the hand writing of my son Benjamin.

Pages, 8 and 9, 202 and 203 are in Mr. Parker's writing and are all the pages in which any entries are made.

The first entry in the hand writing of Mr. Lilly is in March 8th 1838, and his last entry in July 27th 1838.

The entries of my son Benjamin are from the date of March 31st 1838 to Feb. 1st 1839.

The entries in the hand-writing of Mr. Lilly have been crossed and also those in the hand-writing of Benjamin as appears from the said book now produced.

Ques. Is not the book in which the entries are thus crossed the original weighers book kept in the treasurer's office?

Ques. Was, or was not the book introduced at the early part of this investigation entitled the weigher's

book, intended as a substitute for the said original  
weigher's book?

Ans<sup>r</sup>. It was intended to be in the place of the original, on finding the first entries in the hand-writing of Mr. Lilly crossed. I first suggested to the clerk to

get another book and disuse the old one; when my proposition was concurred in, I ordered the porter to get

another and to my surprise he returned in about an hour with the weigher's book now used.

Ques. By whom was it concurred in?  
 Answer. Both by Mr. Demitry and Mr. Parker.

Ques. When did this happen?  
 Ans. May 21st 1839.

Ques. Who crossed the entries in the original book?  
 Ans. Does not know.

Ans. I asked Mr. Demitry why it was done, and

Ques. Did he inform you when this informality

Ques. Do you not believe, from your conversation

us. I admit that he crossed those entries?  
 Yes. Was the original book sent to the stationer's  
 uniform, or for what other lettering of a  
 us. It was not for what other lettering of a

...was sent, not other lettering of the new book  
...solely for the purpose of  
...the purpose of the dimen-  
...binding and marbling; not for  
...the new book was in the  
...s. Ther...



utilized, as for it to be impossible to alter and add other facts, to decipher it, and placed on the succeeding leaf as a true copy of the original entry, which was sworn to be erroneous by the treasurer's clerk, the weigher, in relation to whom Mr. Bradford spoke thus in his publication:

"And the melter and refiner, principally for plotting the displacement of the weigh-master, who, from his station, is the main check upon any irregularity in the melting department."

When this weigher testified to the fiction of this professed copy, he spoke the truth; it was not a copy of the original entry; but in justice to the clerk who made the copy, it must be stated, that the original entry had been so mutilated and altered on the torn leaf as for him to have been innocently led into error.—The motives which led to this depredation on a book of record, and of original entry in a great national institution, did not appear to have been with any view of fraud on the dealers with the mint; but to aid in a controversy which had arisen between Mr. Maxwell and the clerk, as to what had become of \$200 received from Mr. Damian Casas. This affair engrossed a large portion of the time occupied in the investigation, and was not only full of important and sorrowful interest, but amusing to those fond of the chase; a publication of the testimony only can give a true picture of the detected devices of the actors. When it shall be published, it will be seen whether or not Mr. Bradford is justified in saying that there had not been a mutilation of any book designed to conceal any transaction or operation of the mint.

If no voucher has been lost, I would ask Mr. Bradford, why he did not produce the receipt to G. Gilpi for \$200, which the 3d article of the directions for regulating the conduct of the officers of the mint, required should have been given him and taken back when the mint certificate was issued for it; that article when treating on bullion received, says:

"The weigher gives a receipt see (M. & N.) for the weight before melting. This receipt is not properly transferable except in peculiar circumstances and with a perfect assurance of safety to the mint."

And if such care had been taken to have the vouchers in order and duly preserved, I would ask Mr. Bradford why the mint certificate to G. Gilpi was not promptly produced in due form when first called for, and why the margin of the certificate book had not been signed by Gilpi, agreeably to the requirement of the 10th article of the orders for the regulation of the N. O. branch mint.

In the enquiry into matters relating to the deposit by Mr. ~~Maxwell~~ Casas, it came to light that accounts on another book had been defaced and after the application of Mr. Bradford for the removal of Messrs. Tyler and Maxwell, the book put aside and a new book procured and the original book not brought forward until the counsel with the aid of Mr. Maxwell had ferreted out this new device; to this new book some of the accounts on the original book were not transferred, however, I am not willing to argue the cause again for the newspapers, my other occupations claim all my time.

The investigation closed on the 4th July, after a hard day's work, and after having been occupied for more than a month with close attention to the subject, yet as the commissioner intended to proceed to Philadelphia immediately with the testimony, and having proposed in place of waiting to hear argument, that the counsel on both sides should review the testimony and forward their briefs to the director, I felt it to be my duty to commence that very evening a review of the whole case, when the paper was prepared, I transmitted it to the director at Philadelphia. Its perusal imperfect as it must of necessity be, from the little time allowed for preparation, will I trust satisfy all who may take the trouble to read it, that it will not be expedient for me to take any further notice of those who are warring against Messrs. Maxwell and Tyler, that review contained among other things a statement as follows:

Mr. Maxwell, on his part, kept two books, one for silver and one for gold, on which he recorded the bullion received from the treasurer, day by day, as he received it, and another small book, on which he entered the particulars of the clippings, &c., which came from the coiner's department, frequently transferring in the aggregate the amount from the small book to those on which he recorded the amounts received from the treasurer, and when these accounts were settled, he allowed the treasurer's clerk the use of his books, from which they made up their accounts, testing their accuracy by the deposits received according to their own books, and by the amounts credited the coiner for clippings, &c.; all which accounts were carefully copied into a book procured for that purpose in July, 1833, by the treasurer, denominated the weigher's book; to create a mystery, or for some other improper purpose, it was determined to put this book aside; and when detected during the examination, Mr. Dimitry urged as a reason that it had been made from Mr. Maxwell's statements, and that it was wrong, inasmuch as that he had been charged with much more silver than had been received at the mint.

It should be remembered that Mr. Maxwell was chargeable with what had been received for which he got credit when returned, and that when part of it went back in clippings, &c. for re-melt, he was chargeable therefor; and therefore the amount, of necessity would appear to be more than all that had been received at the mint. This book had a peculiar appearance, very

original, on finding the first entries in the hand-writing of Mr. Lilly crossed, I first suggested to the clerk to get another book and disuse the old one; when my proposition was concurred in, I ordered the porter to get another and to my surprise he returned in about an hour with the weigher's book now used.

Ques. By whom was it concurred in?

Ans. Both by Mr. Dimitry and Mr. Parker.

Ques. When did this happen?

Ans. May 21st 1839.

Ques. Who crossed the entries in the original book?

Ans. Does not know.

Ques. Did you ever enquire?

Ans. I asked Mr. Dimitry why it was done, and he satisfied me that the entries were erroneous or informal.

Ques. Did he inform you when this informality was discovered?

Ans. No.

Ques. Do you not believe, from your conversation with Mr. Dimitry, that he crossed those entries?

Ans. I understood Mr. Dimitry to approve of them.

Ques. Was the original book sent to the stationer for the purpose of having the lettering of the new book to conform, or for what other purpose?

Ans. It was sent solely for the purpose of the dimension and lettering, that they might conform; not for the purposes of similar binding and marbling.

Ques. Do they not both conform in the size, binding, marbling, lettering, and general appearance?

Ans. They do; and this excited my surprise when the porter brought it. The porter reported that the stationer said that it was the last that he had, and that he was lucky in getting it.

Ques. Do not the ruling and the pages and the paper conform with the original book?

Ans. They do.

Ques. Are there not in the original book 400 pages?

Ans. Yes.

Ques. Are they not, with the exception of the pages above enumerated, as written on, fair and in a condition to receive entries?

Ans. Yes.

When the books were finally produced to the commissioner (at the close of the investigation,) you will notice the reluctance with which the original red book, the weigher's book which had been clandestinely put aside was produced, and when brought forward you will see in the attempts to disown it, another weak device of these men.

Mr. Dimitry states, after giving a list of books, exclusive of the original weigher's book, that "these are all the books kept in the treasurer's and weigher's office, there is a bullion ledger sent from Philadelphia, in which no entries have been made, the ruling not corresponding with the form, sent from Philadelphia also, there is another bullion ledger purchased here, but in which no entries have yet been made; some of the headings, however, are put in, owing to want of time and not wishing to deviate from the forms sent from Philadelphia, without further instructions."

Mr. Dimitry being called on in behalf of Mr. Maxwell, for the original weigher's book, produced it with the following declaration: "that he does not consider said book as appertaining to the treasurer's office."—He refers for further illustration to his testimony on that subject.

This discarded book you will recollect that Mr. Bradford testified was the original weigher's book of the treasurer's office. How could Mr. Dimitry's wish for new instructions from Philadelphia have retarded the posting into the new ledger procured at New-Orleans, on the 17th February, which had doubtless been ruled according to the forms sent from Philadelphia, the want of which ruling in the ledger sent out having been the cause of procuring the new ledger."

The reader will bear in mind that Mr. Bradford in the publication under his signature, in the Louisianaian of Wednesday, the 24th July, 1839, states, that his application for the removal of Mr. Maxwell, "was principally for plotting the displacement of the weigh-master."

This weigh-master was Mr. Dimitry, the treasurer's chief clerk; the books about which he testified, appertained to the treasurer's department, yet the superintendent takes upon himself the whole affair, and counsels with the clerks and not the chief of that department; the good old man, the treasurer, seems to have been totally neglected, and it did not appear during the whole investigation that he had been made acquainted with the liberties taken with the books and accounts of his department.

Mr. Bradford's talk about plotting was to create a doubt as to the honesty of Mr. Maxwell, he was more direct in his testimony, and when what he said under oath, on that subject, shall be read, every honest man will exclaim monstrous!!

Your obedient servant,  
JACOB BARKER.



In the enquiry into matters relating to the deposit by Mr. [redacted] Cases, it came to light that accounts on another book had been defaced and after the application of Mr. Bradford for the removal of Messrs. Tyler and Maxwell, the book put aside by Mr. Maxwell procured and the original book not brought forward until the counsel with the aid of Mr. Maxwell had ferreted out this new device; to this new book some of the accounts on the original book were not transferred, however, I am not willing to argue the case again for the newspapers, my other occupations claim all my time.

Mr. Maxwell, on his part, kept two books, one for silver and one for gold, on which he recorded the bullion received from the treasurer, day by day, as he received it, and another small book, on which he entered the particulars of the clippings, &c., which came from the coiner's department, frequently transferring in the aggregate the amount from the small book to those on which he recorded the amounts received from the treasurer, and when these accounts were settled, he allowed the treasurer's clerk the use of his books, from which they made up their accounts, testing their accuracy by the deposits received according to their own books, and by the amounts credited the coiner for clippings, &c.; all which accounts were carefully copied into a book procured for that purpose in July, 1833, by the treasurer, denominated the weigher's book; to create a mystery, and the other improper purpose, it was determined to put this book aside, when detected during the examination. Mr. Dixon urged as a reason that it had been made from Mr. Maxwell's statements, and that it was wrong, inasmuch as that he had been charged with much more silver than had been received at the mint.

When the commission met again, the subject was brought before the commissioner, when Mr. Bradford

Your obedient servant,  
JACOB BARKER.

*Pannace*

Hort

Just then  
with the other  
peasants in the  
can.



leans branch mint, having so far forgot his duty as to pre-judge a case which has lately been investigated, and in which the proofs have gone up to his superiors for a decision, by assailing me through the columns of your paper, on the subject matters now pending, and which had been investigated, I have to request that you give place to the enclosed plea [in answer to the erroneous charges of Mr. Bradford,] verified and put in at the commencement of the investigation, pursuant to the requirements of the commissioner.

When the proofs are published the incapacity of Mr. Bradford will be apparent; however, an indulgent public may in some cases be disposed to acquit him from pre-meditated error.

He stated to the director as a reason for my removal, that "Brown and Denny have both assured me that the machinery and presses were in good order; that the delay was unnecessary; the alteration of Mr. Tyler unavailing, and that after all he had to restore them to the state in which he found them before he could get them to work."

Every witness on that subject testified to the contrary of this statement, from which the reader will know how to characterize the transaction without the use of harsh epithets from me.

Mr. Bradford gravely states, that "in conclusion the Bee may be assured that if Jacob Barker or his clients will request or authorize, under their own signatures, the publication, the whole correspondence between the superintendent of the branch mint, and the director at Philadelphia, and the treasury department at Washington, which resulted in the late investigation, and which contains all the subject matter of enquiry, and covers the whole ground, shall be presented to the public in the columns of the Bee itself."

Immaculate!! How kind!! Willing to have his own statements of the affair published!! Observe: not the testimony; not the facts; not the truth!!

Mr. Bradford talks about some one drawing some thing from the late investigation for the impeachment or abuse of the friends of the administration. Poor man! excuse him, he does not know what he is talking about.

The friends of the administration! Who are they among the officers of the mint? The testimony, when published, will tell.

All mankind, with one accord, will say the officer who most honestly and faithfully discharges the duties of his office is the best friend to those from whom he derives his appointment.

Ask Martin Gordon, Esq., the commissioner for building the mint, Mr. Breedlove, the collector of the customs, Mr. Slidell, district attorney and their political friends; whether Mr. Bradford or Mr. Tyler is entitled to be considered the best friend to the administration. I do not say this with any view of being judged by the political bias of my mind, but by the way of protesting against the monstrous doctrine of the superintendent, that such is to be the criterion by which fidelity is to be adjudged.

If Mr. Bradford intended to make a fair impression on the public mind, why does he not, in place of constantly harping on the disappointment of depositors in not receiving coin for their bullion, tell the public that there is no silver bullion in the mint to be coined, and that the operations of the coiner are retarded for the want thereof?

Mr. Bradford is mistaken in saying that the investigation was at his suggestion, as he was in saying that Mr. Breedlove heartily concurred in the opinion that Messrs Maxwell and Tyler ought to be removed; Mr. Breedlove was called as a witness, and testified that he did not recommend their removal, but on the contrary, he wrote a letter to the secretary of the treasury, recommending an investigation, and more, he stated that he considered Mr. Bradford wanting in the energy necessary to his station.

Your obedient servant,

RUFUS TYLER,

Coiner, Branch Mint.

Unable to procure a copy of my plea in season for your paper to-morrow, you have herewith the letter of Messrs Maxwell and Tyler to the district attorney, on the first notice of the commissioner, which please publish, and the plea shall be furnished as soon as I can

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thereof? The coiners are retarded for the want thereof?  
Mr. Bradford is mistaken in saying that the investigation was at his suggestion, as he was in saying that Mr. Breedlove heartily concurred in the opinion that Messrs Maxwell and Tyler ought to be removed; Mr. Breedlove was called as a witness and testified that he did not recommend their removal, but on the contrary, he wrote a letter to the secretary of the treasury, recommending an investigation, and more, he stated that he considered Mr. Bradford wanting in the energy necessary to his station.

Your obedient servant,

RUFUS TYLER,

Coiner, Branch Mint.

Unable to procure a copy of my plea in season for your paper to-morrow, you have herewith the letter of Messrs. Maxwell and Tyler to the district attorney, on the first notice of the commissioner, which please publish, and the plea shall be furnished as soon as I can procure it.

NEW ORLEANS, (Monday) 3d June 1839.

THOMAS SLIDELL, Esq., U. S. District Attorney:

Dear Sir—We received on Saturday evening a letter from the superintendent of the New Orleans branch mint, together with a copy of a letter from the honorable secretary of the treasury, of the 20th ultimo, addressed to Dr. R. M. Patterson, director of the mint, Philadelphia, and of a letter from the latter gentlemen of the 23d ultimo, addressed to David Bradford, Esq., superintendent of the branch mint, New Orleans, all of which you have herewith copies.

By Mr. Bradford's letter we are, at your instance, requested to meet you at the United States branch mint, New Orleans, this afternoon, at 5 o'clock, to proceed in the investigation as ordered by the secretary of the treasury, in his aforesaid letters of the 20th May, with which we shall cheerfully comply, and give you every information in our power touching the management of that part of the business of the mint entrusted to our care, and shall be greatly obliged to you, if you will invite the collector of the customs of this port to be present at such investigation, or allow us to solicit his attendance. He being familiar with business transactions; acquainted with book-keeping and accounts; and officer of the government, in whom the treasury have entire confidence, we think public good will be subserved by the presence of such a person during the whole investigation.

The nature and extent of the proposed investigation does not distinctly appear, further than it is to be, as to the qualifications and efficiency of all the officers of the mint, as well as those of the persons who have been recommended to supersede us, and also as to the character of the officers implicated, and the state of the branch mint generally and its difficulties.

As to our qualifications and efficiency, the testimony of scientific gentlemen will be indispensably necessary; by that test we earnestly desire that we may be judged, and at the same time, would most respectfully suggest that the object of the secretary of the treasury in ordering the investigation, might probably be more readily attained by subjecting all the other officers of the mint to a like scrutiny.

As to the character of the officers implicated, we can form no distinct opinion who they are, nor in what they are implicated from the aforesaid letters, which is all the information we possess, further than that we are the individuals selected for removal without being told for what cause.

If there be any charges against us, it is proper they should be distinctly stated before we be called on to refute or justify, and this we hold ourselves in readiness and bound to do in twenty-four hours after we receive a copy of the charges, if any exist; and as to the qualifications and efficiency of the persons proposed to take our places in case of vacancies, we can say nothing until we know their names, and then it would be improper for us to be present or take part in any investigation in relation thereto. In addition to the letters in question, we think we should have been furnished with a copy of the letter recommending our removal.

Assuring you that we shall at all times do every thing in our power to facilitate the proposed investigation, and that we have an earnest solicitude for the secretary of the treasury and director of the mint to be made acquainted with the least possible delay with every fact in relation to the New Orleans branch mint, and to the conduct of its officers.

We are, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JAS. MAXWELL, Melter and Refiner,  
RUFUS TYLER, Coiner.



I am convinced said Mr Bradford in the same letter from  
my own observation



W 129

Sir

Since being here I have at the request of the Superintendent, visited the mint, which seems to be in fine order, the machinery of the most beautiful & efficient kind. From the statements of Mr. Bradford, who is a most amiable, intelligent & respectable Gentleman, there appears to be want of a hearty co-operation on the part of some of the Officers. This opinion of the Superintendent by W. H. the assayer <sup>consensus</sup>, who seems in his short residence <sup>to have secured</sup> the esteem of some of our most respectable citizens, and is certainly, highly educated and of extensive information, and a man of the world. Whatever may be the cause, very little has been done, only about 160,000, when no doubt more than a million might readily have been coined. On the day of my visit, they were not coining, the machinery being out of order, which happens so often, as fully to account for the little work that is done. In new machinery, & which there is every reason to consider very perfect, it does not seem probable that such frequent derangements would occur, if the practical officers,



The Master Steiner, Cloier, knew I performed  
their duty. These officers too, not being acclimated  
cannot safely remain during the sickly months  
and much time must in consequence be lost.  
I understand that will be no difficulty in finding  
suitable persons for these offices, should removals,  
which seem required by the good of the service, take  
place. No doubt much more activity, as well  
as harmony, would have existed in the Branch,  
had the Director visited it, as I believe the law  
contemplated.

With great respect

Robert Carter Nicholas

New Orleans May 14.<sup>th</sup> 1839

Yours  
to

Levi Woodbury

Secy. Treasury.







(Copy) 12

New Orleans, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1839

D<sup>r</sup> R M Patterson

Director U S Mint

Philadelphia

Wm J

My clerk in copying my brief sent you, so blended together my remarks about the testimony of Casas & Dinitry (provided a copy he returned he correct that I may be considered to have made slight errors, to correct which, I have to ask the favor of your allowing one of your clerks, to insert the accompanying sentence on the margin of the page on which the following sentence is written, with a \* of reference immediately preceding the said sentence, viz:

"Dinitry after having stated it was their uniform practice to leave the certificate in the book, when their return was simultaneous with their payment, as in the case of the Casas deposit; also that Casas endorsed the certificate in the book without reading it, & passing it on from the receipt he had received for the money when deposited, came forward at the next meeting of the Commission, & wished to explain, saying that he was inclined to believe the certificate to Casas had been cut from the book, & delivered to Casas, as the office was full of people, & Casas had to wait his turn; as they were paid in small change he ~~had to wait~~ <sup>was detained</sup> more than an hour."

In the paper <sup>sent</sup> you, you will find the above sentence somewhere about page (40), please also let your clerk run pen through the two lines marked out above with red lines.

The letter of the Treasurer to the Superintendent, which the Superintendent sent to you in his receipt, is



present office, cannot get on together but until the pleasure of your self  
of the Gov<sup>t</sup> are known Major Maxwell & Tyler submit to that which they  
not do under any other circumstances

Very respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

(Signed)

Jacott Parker

The following sentence to be added to Mr Parker's brief viz:

Mr Dawson Co. as testified that he had endorsed the certificate in  
the book without reading it or knowing that it expressed a greater amount  
than was mentioned in the receipt, - that he did not receive more than  
was mentioned in the receipt, that it was contained in 20 packages 19  
of which contained \$10 each, that one contained only \$9.75 & the 50 cent defici-  
ency he believed to have been an unintentional error.



(Copy) 12

New Orleans, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1839

D<sup>r</sup> R M Patterson  
Director U S Mint  
Philadelphia  
Wm J

My clerk in copying my brief sent you, so blended together my remarks about the testimony of Casas & Dimmity (provided a copy he retained be correct) that I may be considered to have made slight errors, to correct which, I have to ask the favor of your allowing one of your clerks, to insert the accompanying sentence on the margin of the page on which the following sentence is written, with a \* of reference immediately preceding the said sentence, viz:

"Dimmity, after having stated it was their immemorial practice to leave the certificate in the book, when their return was simultaneous with their payment, as in the case of the Casas deposits, also that Casas endorsed the certificate in the book without reading it, & assuming it arrived from the receipt he had received for the money when deposited, came forward at the next meeting of the Commission, & wished to explain, saying that he was inclined to believe the certificate to Casas had been cut from the book, & delivered to Casas, as the office was full of people, & Casas had to wait his turn; as they were paid in small change he ~~had to wait~~ <sup>was detained</sup> more than an hour."

In the paper <sup>sent</sup> you, you will find the above sentence somewhere about page (40), please also let your clerk run a pen through the two lines marked out above with red lines. The letter of the Treasurer to the Superintendent of the Superintendent sent to you in his deputation letter.



letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> was dated 16 of that Month, the Dir<sup>y</sup> has  
by testified that Mr Hart also him in preparing for the Treas<sup>y</sup>  
was signature - in relation on this subject on about 5<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>  
I refer to it, as having been dated the 16 May; please allow your  
clerk to run his pen through the word May & insert the  
word February, as I wish to be exact in all things.

If such a state of things should arise, as for  
Mr Maxwell to accept of other employment than that of  
the N. O. R. Mint, allow me to suggest to you the expediency  
of making further enquiry, before Mr Trask be appointed.

A letter to E. W. Zachary Esq one of the principal  
patrons of the N. O. R. Mint, & to Leonard Mathews Esq  
President of the Western Marine Ins Co of this place, would be of  
valuable information.

Mr Dimity the weighing clerk, of whom Mr B. said  
in his letter to you under date of the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1839,

I assure you <sup>that</sup> no gentleman can receive such an insult  
in this city or any of the Southern States & maintain  
his character as an honest man & his rank in soci-  
ety without resenting it personally & promptly."

is a descendant of a coloured woman of this place, & persons whose  
blood is thus tainted, are inhibited by the law of Louisiana  
from holding office, & by the rules of society, are not permitted  
to mingle in <sup>the</sup> society, however white they may appear, &  
however correct their deportment: hence Mr Maxwell could  
not have considered him in the light of a gentleman, & had  
he been willing under any circumstances, to meet <sup>an equal</sup> ~~him~~  
single combat: hence the greater error of Mr Bradford, in  
sustaining Dimity in his audacious course.

The singular course pursued by the Superintendent since the  
closed reading is necessary that there should be a prompt decision



present office, cannot get on together but until the pleasure of your self  
1 of the Govt are known Mr. Maxwell & Taylor submit to that which they can  
not do under any other circumstances,

Very respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

(Signed)

Jacob Parker

The following sentence to be added to Mr Parker's brief viz:

Mr William Coates testified that he had endorsed the certificate in  
the book without reading it or knowing that it expressed a greater amount  
than was mentioned in the receipt, - that he did not receive more than  
was mentioned in the receipt, that it was contained in 20 packages 19  
of which contained \$10 each, that one contained only \$9.75 & the 50 cent defic-  
iency he believed to have been an unintentional error.



Copy

New Orleans, 29 July 1839

Messrs M. C. Elton & Co. Paris

Mobile

Gentlemen

Your letter of 25 July, came to hand in due course, the investigation at the New Orleans Branch must have previously terminated

The order for the investigation was sufficiently extensive to have embraced your case, that branch of the subject was not gone into, for what reason I do not know, it was principally confined to matters touching the character & capacity of the officers, this occupied more than a month & the Commissioner being in great haste to leave for the North did not go into general subjects which require investigation.

I suppose that he was satisfied that he had obtained sufficient proof to impress on the Government the necessity of an immediate change of some of the officers, after which a further investigation can take place with more effect & it will doubtless be ordered, with this matter however I have not anything to do, having been employed by Messrs Maxwell & Tyler, one of the officers, to defend them against false charges made by the Superintendent, this branch of the investigation having been gone into & the testimony gone forward for the inspection & decision of the Directors of the Govt, my duties have probably terminated, excepting so far as may be necessary to sustain myself & my clients in a newspaper which the Superintendent is waging a libel against counsel & clients.

Very respectfully

Yours Obedt Servant

Signed

Jacob V. Barker



131  
U. S. B. Mint New Orleans  
August 8<sup>th</sup> 1839

Hon.

Levi Woodbury, Secy of the Treasry of the U. S.  
Sir,

I deem it my duty to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter from me to Mr. J. W. Larkins a merchant in this City, dated July 27<sup>th</sup> of this year, his answer thereto, dated 29<sup>th</sup> ult. his letter to Mr. Trastour, dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. and the letter of C. Rosebush Esq. an eminent lawyer and one of the most influential characters in this City, to Mr. Trastour dated July 1839.

I have deemed it my duty to re-investigate the grounds of my former recommendation of Mr. Trastour in case a vacancy should occur as likewise that of M. P. Deuney Esq. and I have to assure you that it is my most deliberate opinion that they are the most worthy characters in my knowledge for the appointments as recommended.

Very Respectfully

Your Humble Servant

David Bradford  
Sep. 5

Went reply  
W



*M* 132

P. Edward Easton Esq.  
Present New Orleans.  
Your Sir.

July 1839.

In compliance with your request, I hasten to state my opinion of your conduct in the two suits referred to in your letter. The only person, subject to animadversion in the suit against you, is Mr. George Zacharie, because if the debt, for the recovery of which that suit was brought, was due at all, it was due to the succession of the late James Madison Zacharie, which succession was administered by George Zacharie: yet the action was instituted and the recovery had in the individual name of George Zacharie, in whose favor judgment was rendered. —

The evidence of the debt consisted in bonds for building materials, in which the name, of the person to whom the amount was due, was not mentioned; and as you had no testimony to prove that fact the bonds belonged to the succession of James Madison



Zachary (and not to George Zachary, you lost the  
suit. — But when George Zachary afterwards filed  
his account in the Court of Probates he did not  
credit the succession of James W. Zachary, with the  
amount of the judgment against you; but still  
persisted that that debt belonged to him personally.  
Bring out of the counsel for the heirs of J. W. Zachary,  
I, in conjunction with Isaac J. Preston Esq. opposed  
the account rendered by George Zachary, and on the trial  
of the opposition you, among other persons, were subpoenaed  
as a witness. Your testimony established the fact  
that the debt due by you belonged to the succession.  
The result was the removal of George Zachary as  
administrator of the succession of James Madison  
Zachary. I consider that you acted in both cases as  
an honest and upright man. I have always regretted,  
that your great scientific acquirements have not been better  
appreciated and encouraged. This I attribute mainly to your  
deficiency in the art of intriguing, by a proficiency in which  
many persons, of much inferior ability, have met with  
brilliant success, and made large fortunes. —

Yours respectfully O. Reelins



133

Monticello August 3<sup>d</sup> 1839

P G Trastour Esq  
Dear Sir

I have recd your note of this date and in reply can only say that my remark in regard to you was none other than I should have made of any other person applying for public office who was unburdened in his pecuniary circumstances which was that you were the best man I should think of appointing to such an office alluding indirectly to your pecuniary matters.

In reply to that part of your note in which you state that I accused you of being destitute of that moral worth requisite for any official station, I deny that I have ever used such an expression, as in regard to your private character I have not the least knowledge.

Yours Respectfully  
A. W. Scherwin



134  
New Orleans July 29th 1839  
David Bradford Esq

Superintendent to French Mint  
Sir

In reply to your note of the 27th Inst which I received late on Saturday evening I can only say that from what has come to my knowledge through the courts of justice in our state I know that Mr Grestain was not pay his honest debts and if you will examine the public records at the mortgage office you will find judgments against him unextinguished and in a suit wherein my cousin George B. Zacharie obtained a judgment against him he denied certain facts which has left an unparadisable impression of him on my mind and were he to receive the appointment of Public Printer I should not have confidence enough to continue my deposits at the mint.

Mr Grestain may be a very honest & upright man but I hold it a maxim that a person who cannot take care of his own means is unfit to be intrusted with that of others and consequently should not be appointed to so important a station. I have no desire to injure the gentleman naming no acquaintance with him but interested much in the success of the mint as I am and making large deposits I did express the opinion you name on seeing in the Public Prints that that gentleman had been recommended as a successor to Mr Maxwell very respectfully yours Wm Bradford



M 135

(Copy)

N S B Mint No

July 27<sup>th</sup> 1849

Mr. J. W. Zacharie,

Sir,

I have been informed that in consequence of my having recommended P. E. Trastour Esq., in case the Milton and Repulse in this B. Mint should be removed, for that appointment, you have stated publicly that he was the last man in the Community who ought to be appointed; I have to ask of you to communicate to me any information you may have in your power to afford relative to the character of Mr. Trastour which you may deem interesting to the appointing Power.

Your Humble Servant  
David Bradford  
Supt.



M 136

New Orleans Augt. 20th 1839

Dear Sir

Mr Bradford returned from Bayou Sara the latter part of last week; issued an order dated on Saturday to suspend the operations of the mint until the 1st of Nov<sup>r</sup>; & I am informed returned to Bayou Sara on Sunday, his order did not reach Mr Tyler, although in the house, until Monday and never reached Mr Maxwille, he having died on Sunday evening, ~~and~~ on enquiry I find that several others who had <sup>been employed in the Mint and were</sup> been reported as recovering, also died.

The Judge just seals on the effects of Mr Maxwille including his vaults in the mint; & appointed a Receiver of his Keys, including those of his vaults. & has applied to me to open his succession, I have declined to intermeddle until I hear from you or the Director on the subject. He expects those in authority at the Mint will move the Court to order the Keys of the vaults delivered to them, if so I may from the opinion entertained of those men appear in Court as the Counsel of the representatives of Mr Maxwille and ask a delay until your pleasure or that of the Director is known.

There is believed to be a large amount of Bullion in Mr Maxwille's vault, delivered to him for the purpose of melting into ingots, which if living he would not consent to place in the hands of Doctor Short or Mr Demitry without special authority and a most close inspection.

I was not ~~consulted~~ in the course pursued nor was I knowing to it, nor do I know the name of the person appointed to take charge of the Keys & effects, if I had been I should probably under the circumstances of the case <sup>have</sup>



have recommended the course that has been pursued.

You will perceive the necessity of an immediate appointment either of a new Superintendent, Treasurer or Special Agent. This is absolutely necessary to protect the reputation of Mr. Maxwell as well as that of the client & its funds - The utmost care must be taken or his transgressions will so embarrass his affairs as for it to be very difficult to establish the truth & we are all owe to his unfortunate family not to leave any avenue open for mischief to overtake that of which in life he was so tenacious & which he guarded with so much pertinacity.

I have not any wish to be employed, yet if my services should be wanted, until permanent officers are fixed on, you have only to command my services; but I cannot cooperate either with Mr. Bradford, Dr. Short or Dimmity. - If James Kennedy Esq<sup>r</sup> should be appointed Treasurer it would be all sufficient for the present.

Yours: Levi Woodbury  
Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Treasury

With much respect

I remain Dear Sir  
Your most friend  
James Parker

\* Mr. Tyler is too much occupied with the critical state of Mrs. Tyler's health to attend to any business besides he is expecting it will see his name every where to have the papers. JPB



lands  
39

write to the Director  
at Phil. giving him  
the material facts  
with out the names  
of the persons  
I request his attention to the subject  
I advise - J. W.



M 137

United States Branch Mint New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office 19<sup>th</sup> August 1839

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Levi Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury }

Sir,

It is my very painful  
duty to inform you that Mr James Maxwell, the  
Melter & Refiner died last night at Eleven o'clock  
of the yellow fever.

I remain very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant

Edm: Forstall  
Treas of Br. Mint. (N.O.)

Respectfully Remains at  
Phil. & Green a  
devotedly successful  
W



New Orleans 8 Sep 1839

Am<sup>le</sup> Levi Woodbury }  
Secy of the Treasury }

Sir, It becomes my  
melancholy duty in the absence  
of Mr Bradford, to inform you  
that Mr Tyler the Coiner of this  
Br Mint died of Yellow Fever  
this morning -

Very respectfully

Yours &c

1. Advise rpt of  
which great  
regrets  
W

Wm P. A. & M. A.  
Affayed

2. Inform the Directors of  
Phil & request  
his attention to recruit  
a suitable successor



W 138

Treasurer's Office

United States Branch Mint

New Orleans 18. Oct. 1839

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, which came to hand yesterday.

My Bond, with Sureties approved <sup>by</sup> the United States District Judge, was forwarded to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, and he has no doubt sent it to the Comptroller of the Treasury. The remittance in question is wanted, I have very little money on hand, and more than the sum asked for has been used out of the Pullion account by the late Treasurer, for the contingent expenses.

I have received from the late Officers of the Mint, all the Pullion Coins that was in their possession. The Books in the Treasurer's Office were very much behind, and are not yet up, and I have not yet been able to make a final settlement with the late Treasurer.

I am very



Respectfully

Your most Oth. Servt

A. C. Cammaeth

Treasurer

To the

Honorable Levi Woodbury

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington City

16



W

139

W. S. Branch Mint

N. O. Dec. 9. 1839

Sir,

By the mail of yesterday I had the honor of sending  
you a box containing the gold and silver coins required  
for the annual assay at Philadelphia - You  
will much oblige me, by transmitting that box  
as soon as practicable to Dr. Patterson -

I am very respectfully

Yours obed. Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. McKenney

Supt.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Secretary  
of the Treasury

Alfred W. Greer  
has done it  
W



M (140)

United States Branch Office New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office 24<sup>th</sup> Decr. 1829

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> instant, in relation to a draft for \$1700. on the Post Master at this place, received from the Treasurer of the United States a few days since. Agreeably to instructions received at the time, a special account was opened as a depository of the public money with the Treasurer of the United States, and the amount of the above draft was credited as a deposit by James W. Prudlove, late Collector of the Customs, which I communicated to the Treasurer of the U. States, under date of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant.

I remain very resp.<sup>y</sup>

Your obt. servt.

McLammack

Treasurer

See third item in above book

Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury



W 141

Br U.S. Mint  
Dahlongga 4<sup>th</sup> April 1839

Hon. Louis Woodbury

Sir I have the honor to  
enclose you a copy of my letter of this date  
to Mr. J. N. Barker <sup>Comptroller Quassy Dpt.</sup>  
Under the existing circumstances Sir,  
I have deemed it advisable (however reluctant  
-ly) to trouble you with a matter, the set-  
tlement of which belongs to an officer  
in a branch of your Department. From  
some cause or other there is a mistake in  
Mr. Barker's communication to me of the 4<sup>th</sup> ult.  
I am very well assured that it was not  
intentional, nevertheless, there is an issue  
between Mr. Barker and myself, and I  
can only add that I am proud of the  
legal umpire.

I am very respectfully  
Sir your humble servant

Sook into their  
report  
W

J. H. Singleton  
Super. Mining

P.S. The 2 pair new half Eagle Dies  
has been received.



M 142

Br. W. A. Mint

Dalhousie 4<sup>th</sup> April 1839

Dear Sir

Agreeable to your request of the 4<sup>th</sup> ult. I have taken up my entire account with the Treasury Department, and credited all the warrants received from the same, and charged all my disbursements under their appropriate heads, which exhibits the various balances up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1839. The ultimate balance of \$1884.07 $\frac{1}{2}$  in my favour would be increased by adding the small balance now in the hands of Dr. Patterson; this however I do not expect to avail myself of until I am able to produce vouchers for the disbursement of that sum.

It affords me much pleasure now to enclose you such vouchers as directed by the Director of the Mint for my wastage account of last year (am. \$40.81) which entitles me to a credit for the same according to your promise.

I hope Sir, that this statement will prove satisfactory to you. As I am certainly entitled to your acknowledgements. As you were good enough to advise, and so fortunate as to have duplicate receipts for all my disbursements, I am now prepared to exhibit them at any







mk M 143

Br U.S. Mint  
Dahlonga 31 Dec. 1838

Dear Sir

In continuation of the order of the Director of the Mint, I enclose you ten more half Eagles to be forwarded from your Department to the Mint at Philadelphia for the Annual assay, making in all 40 pieces, 30 of which has been received for.

Will you have the kindness to cause the same to be forwarded upon its arrival at the Department.

My quarterly Report will be delayed a few days awaiting for some information from the Director of the Mint, which, if not received by the 10<sup>th</sup> proximo will be forwarded without.

I have the Hon. Sec. of  
being very respectfully your  
Humble Servant

J. M. Singleton  
Superintendent

Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Secretary &c.

only 19 sent there  
10  
Do this  
10



M 144

Br U.S. Mint

Dahlonga 11<sup>th</sup> January 1839

Dear Sir

By tomorrow's mail I have the honor of forwarding to the Treasury Department an entire Report of the proceedings of this branch of the U.S. Mint, from the beginning of our Gold operations up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1838. Accompanied by a Report of the ordinary expenses of the same for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters of 1838 including a part of the 2<sup>d</sup> quarter of the same year. The ordinary expenses prior to this part of the said 2<sup>d</sup> quarter having been sent to the Department, which I presume was satisfactory in its being retained.

We have endeavored as near as possible to conform to the forms sent us in October last by the Director of the Mint, in the shaping of said reports, accompanying each by their proper vouchers. The instructions written for as alluded to in my letter to you of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst. has not been received, which were simply enquiries of the Director whether he deemed it indispensable to forward to the Department our Appraisers reports and receipts, together with the receipts of the Coiner. On finding that our Reports would be incomplete without them, I have determined to send them now and in future, unless otherwise directed. There appears



to be a small discrepancy of fourteen  
Dollars and seven cents on our Books which was ac-  
-casioned in the reception of the two first Deposits  
which required refining before estimating their  
value, and which estimation was made before  
they were refined.

There also appears against me  
in the ordinary expense Account three thous-  
-and three hundred and seventy two Dollars  $9\frac{3}{4}$  cents.  
But deduct from this sum the eighteen hundred  
and and seventy five Dollars paid in Philadelphia  
for the contingent purposes of the Mint, for which  
as yet I have no vouchers sent me, together  
with the thirteen hundred and forty five Dollars  
which I have on hand, only leaves me in arrears  
one hundred and fifty two Dollars  $9\frac{3}{4}$ .

D<sup>r</sup>. Patterson promised to send me my account  
and vouchers from Philadelphia before the close  
of the past year, I cannot imagine the cause  
of his failure.

D<sup>r</sup>. Patterson informs me that there is no ac-  
-count kept with Depositors at the Mint  
in Philadelphia, I am sorry that it cannot  
be so here, as yet we have had no fund  
to pay the Depositor upon the report of  
the value of his Deposits, and as yet we  
have not been able to transfer but twelve  
thousand eight hundred and forty two Dollars  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cents



of the twenty thousand Dollars Deposited at the Mint  
in Philadelphia to enable us to pay Depositors.  
As soon as we can be enabled to place in our  
vault coin to the amt. transferred, we shall  
be enabled to pay Depositors without keep-  
ing an account with them.

In my last Report to the Director of the Mint,  
I gave him a succinct view of what I consider  
to be our prospects for the present year: we have  
received rather more Bullion the past year than  
I expected, under the unfavorable circumstances which  
we were placed, occasioned by Indians, Soldiers, Re-  
road competition &c. &c. The two first are now  
removed, but the latter remains with all its  
altering inducements to call off our Miners  
with their numerous trains of Laborers.  
After this thirst for Rail Road wages is over-  
we may safely calculate on a considerable  
increase in raising the precious Article.  
The few Mines now under operation yield  
ample compensation to their owners. —

See if any reply  
needed

I have the hon. Sir  
of being very respectfully  
your humble servant

Hon. Isaac Woodbury  
Secretary &c

Wm. S. Kingston  
Chap. Sec. Mining  
M. 25th Jan 1840  
W. S. Kingston



MCKO

W 145

To U.S. Mint  
Dahlonga 14<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. 1889

Dear Sir

On reflection I think it probable that I did not do myself justice in my communication to you of the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst. when I mentioned that I was in arrears \$152.46. on counting the amount of funds in my hands, and adding this to the amount in the hands of Dr. Patterson it created an apparent balance against me of the above amt. when in fact the money was in my pocket and could have been added which would have left no balance against me. I merely mention this for fear that it may be thought that I have violated one of the most wholesome restrictions belonging to the Disbursing Agents of the Government, and one that should prevail throughout, and rigidly enforced whenever it is violated. It has been my object since the commencement of my official duties to keep the Government in my debt so far as my private matters are concerned, and which has been uniformly the case, and I may so say at this time.

Very respectfully yours &c.

J. S. Singleton  
Chief Clerk Mint

Hon. Lacai Woodbury  
Secretary, &c.



M

146

Br. U.S. Mint  
Dahlonaga 11<sup>th</sup> February 1839

Don Isaac Woodbury

Sir I have the honor of informing you that I have this day enclosed to Jesse Miller Esqr. Auditor of the Treasury additional vouchers for our contingent expenditures in Philadelphia during the last year, which we have just received by order of the Director of the Mint.

The quarter Eagle Dues sent to us through the Treasury Department has been received.

I have the honor of being  
Yours very respectfully.

J. S. Singleton  
Sup. Br. Mint in Ga.



M 147

To W. J. Mint  
Daklonega 24<sup>th</sup> June 1889

Don. Secai Woodbury

Sir hitherto I have been somewhat Difficult in converting the Government Drafts into such funds as would enable me to use them Satisfactorily to all concerned in them, and to avoid as much as possible the usual Bank failures, not Obviating my liability in the event of such failure for whatever funds may be in my hands belonging to the Government at such Bank failure should it occur. consequently to remedy this liability, and give general Satisfaction in the Disbursement of my Government funds is the object of this Communication.

I am aware of my right to present those Drafts for payment whenever they are made payable, and to Demand cash Specie, but this would be much more expensive to the Government than were I to sell them at a Discount for indisputable funds.

For instance, generally speaking I think I could cash those Drafts for 99<sup>th</sup> cent Discount for just such funds, wherein case I to go or send to the places where they are



payable, it would cost double the amount.

Now the question upon which  
you will very much oblige me with your  
opinion is, Whether I am authorized to  
negotiate them to the best advantage or  
not, according to my judgement.

Be pleased Sir to favour me with your  
opinion or instructions in this matter  
as early as you can find it convenient.  
to oblige.

I have the hon. Sir  
of being your humble servant  
J<sup>o</sup> Singleton  
Capt. Gen. Milt. Gen.



M

148

Br W. D. Mint  
Dahlonga July 1839

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sir I have the honor  
of accompanying this with our quarterly Report  
ending 29<sup>th</sup> June 1839 Directed to Jose Miller  
Esq Auditor of the U. S. Treasury, which I  
hope will be found satisfactory.

Very respectfully Sir  
Gen. your humble servant.

J. H. Singleton  
Capt. W. D. Mint in Co



M 149

To U.S. Mint  
Dahlonega Aug. 1839

Dear Sir

I received by the last mail your printed Circular of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult. I am somewhat at a loss to understand the wishes of the Dpt in relation to matters therein communicated. You request that I will have opened on the Books of this Branch of the Mint an Account with William Selden Treasurer of the U.S. and transfer thereto from the account of John Campbell late Treasurer the sum of \$20,000. on the receipt of the Treasury Warrant for the aforesaid sum, I had opened upon the Books of the Mint in obedience to the accompanying Instructions an account with the Treasurer of the U.S. without specifying the individual name of that officer, and credited said account with the aforesaid \$20,000, and which now stands to the credit of said account. under such circumstances, I have the honor of respectfully asking, should there be any alteration in the aforesaid Entries.

You also state that it will be necessary for me to make the usual weekly Returns in his (Mr. Seldens name &c.) Does not this part of your communication



refer to the duties of some other officers  
of the Government. It has not been the custom  
of this branch of the Mint to make any  
other than quarterly Returns to the Treasury  
Department, and which has been done in  
obedience to the 3<sup>d</sup> clause of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sec. of the  
Law governing the branch Mints.

I shall await your answer Sir, before  
I proceed to act in obedience to the aforesaid  
Circular.

I have the hon. Sir of  
being very respectfully your  
Obedient Servant

J<sup>h</sup> Singleton  
Chap. & Quar.  
to Mint &c

Hon. Isaac Coddgers  
Secretary &c



149  
to  
Borington Georgia Oct 14 1839

Mr Towns the contractor for erecting the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, has fulfilled his contract, and the Building is now complete. I had long since examined it, and put it in possession of the Officers of the Mint, as you are aware, and nothing remained to be done in May 1838, but the recovering of the Roof, and some small portions of painting, plastering, and repairing the cornice and the gutter, this has been done and Dr Singleton, the Superintendent states, that he is satisfied with the Roof and the repairs. I enclose Mr Towns' account for extra work, with his prices affixed, which prices Dr Singleton, and Mr Mason the Chief Coiner believe to be according to the usual rates. I enclose also a statement of the sum of money heretofore paid to Mr Towns, for which his receipts have been taken and transmitted to the Department, and the balance now due him, if his account for extra work is allowed.

I transmitted to the Department on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1838, my account authenticated by vouchers which had been previously transmitted to it, showing the payment of sixteen thousand, seven hundred and thirty nine dollars, and thirty eight and one fourth cents and acknowledging a balance of Five thousand, three hundred and ninety dollars, and sixty one and three fourth cents, in my hands. You will be pleased to deduct from that sum the amount of compensation which the Government may allow me, and transmit a sum sufficient with the balance then left in my hands, to pay Mr Towns the amount now due on his account. I have long since paid Mr Towns a part of the money left in my hands, and have stood engaged since November 1837 to pay four thousand dollars for him, whenever the Department should pass his account. The receipts were not taken and transmitted, because the obligation was made dependent upon that condition, as I was not authorized to pay more than the three instalments before the work was completed. Dr Singleton informs me, that Dr Patterson the Director of the



18  
mint, insists upon a deduction of the amount of difference in value  
between the wooden cornice which is put up, and brick cornice  
which was required in Mr Strickland's specifications. A brick cor-  
-nice of the proportions required in the Plan, obviously could not  
have been made; - Mr Town, believes that there is but little dif-  
-ference in the value of a brick cornice, such as alone could have  
been made, and the wooden one of full proportions which has  
been put up. The Department must determine this question,  
but I hope that the balance due Mr Town, will be paid  
without further delay, at least all except a sum sufficient  
to cover that difference if the Department is disposed to adopt  
the view of Dr Patterson. I can form no opinion of the dif-  
-ference in value, as the brick cornice, could not have been  
made of full proportions, without using bricks of a size never  
made, or supporting those of ordinary size with beams of wood  
or bars of iron, which so far as I can learn has never been  
done.

I am very respectfully your  
off derv

Honorable Levi Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury

Ignatius A. Sew  
Com<sup>r</sup> for erecting Branch Mint  
at Dahlonega

Seewick into this report

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr. Town

Wm. H. H. H. H.



United States

To Benjamin Towns Dr

1839 For erecting Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Georgia,  
price fixed by contract

\$33.450

" For extra-work on Br. Mint, as stated in acct submitted

\$1569.50<sup>cts</sup>

\$35.019.50<sup>cts</sup>

Cr

\$1700 credited in acc. N. 69.978

By Cash paid on three instalments, and  
specified in vouchers heretofore transmitted

\$15.300.

Balance

\$19 719.50<sup>cts</sup>

Add value of omitted article in acct for extra-work

\$5

The sum now to be transmitted for the payment of Mr Towns  
(if the account for extra-work is allowed), will be ascertained, by  
first deducting the amount of my compensation from the sum of  
Five thousand three hundred and ninety dollar, sixty one and three fourth cents  
now in my hand, and then subtracting the balance left from the sum  
stated as above at \$19,719.50<sup>cts</sup> except that there is an article in the ac-  
count for extra-work, which is not priced, and unless a deduction is  
made on account of the cornice.



M  
150  
Athens Nov. 13. 1839  
Mr. Woodbury, D. S. S.

The object of this communication is, to ascertain, if there be any, & what obstacles may now exist in the way of a settlement with the contractors for building the Branch Mint at Savannah. Two years has elapsed since the Government has had possession of the building, & believing, partly from personal observation, & partly from hearsay, <sup>& other persons</sup> that the officers have been enabled to accomplish all the purposes contemplated by its erection so far as the Contractor was concerned, it becomes a matter of serious interest with him at this time to know why he does not receive the balance which may be due him. It is now seven weeks since the U. S. Commissioner was informed by the appropriate officer that the work had all been completed & that they would receive the work - and also that the Bill of Extra work was reasonable. At the same time the undersigned were informed by the Commissioner that he would communicate with your department & request an immediate settlement. Nothing is yet done. The undersigned do not make this communication in a spirit of complaint against any quarter, but candor compels them to say at the same time that they cannot feel perfectly at ease until they hear from you.

It may be proper to remark in this place that, in regard to the Cornice, if it was the object of the Government, that the draft furnished was required to be strictly complied with, then & in



that case, the specifications required that which  
is palpably impracticable, unless they expect the  
Contractor to make Bricks four ft in length, which  
is itself so far out of the ordinary practice of under-  
taking as to have required a specific explanation on  
that point. Simple inspection of the draft is suffi-  
cient to show this. And as to the difference be-  
tween four grain Arches & straight ceilings the  
undersigned have all along supposed that the  
said difference had long since been settled & agreed  
upon - with due respect

Yours &c. Benj<sup>m</sup> Lewis, Contractor.

Jas. Linsley Secy to the Committee.

Ever Yrs for them

W



151

Washington Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Hon Levi Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir

I regret to learn from your letter of yesterday, received this morning - that so much delay must necessarily occur, in the payment of the Contractors Tinsley & Towns, & consequently prolong the suffering & distress of the Mechanics Employed by them. My mortification is increased from the fact, that immediately after I received your last letter, (previous to the one now before me) I wrote to Tinsley & Towns, as well as several of the workmen employed by them - suggesting to them the prospects & arrangement which your letter indicated, & assuring them, that they need not apprehend further delay in receiving their just dues.

I must now write to them again, & endeavor to explain the case as well as I can - but it is exceedingly difficult, to explain such a case to interested individuals, who are wholly unacquainted with the mode of conducting the financial affairs of the Govt. - They do not understand carrying unexpended appropriations to the surplus fund, while they are & have been suffering for that very thing.



the want of that very surplus.

Suffer me to suggest to you, recommending an appropriation sufficient to cover the entire amount due to the Contractors - and let Col. Kern settle his accounts with the Govt. I cannot recognize the correctness of the principle, that those who do the work of the Govt, have no guarantee for the payment of their wages - except that of the fidelity of a Govt. Agent.

I consider the Govt. responsible for the default of its Agents.

I am Sir, <sup>with</sup> undiminished  
confidence & respect  
Yrs. Obedt. Servt.

Wilson Lumpkin

Adje. rpts - } I regret the <sup>embarrassment</sup>  
I have resorted to the  
an appropriation of \$20,000  
which is believed to be large  
enough to cover all  
contingencies -



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embellishments as this can & will do all in my own power  
to obliterate them at the earliest day

to the Committee as immediate



157<sup>a</sup>  
Treasury Department  
First Auditor's Office,  
December 16<sup>th</sup> 1839

Sir,

I herewith transmit you copies of the Statements of the two accounts of Ignatius Few, as Commissioned for the erection of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, that have been settled — From the last statement it appears that he was indebted to the Government when he rendered that account, the sum of \$5,055.83. In the adjustment of this account there was a delay in consequence of certain Vouchers, alleged to have been transmitted, being lost or mislaid, and Mr. Few was finally requested to furnish Duplicates, which he has done with one exception. This however, had no effect in producing any delay in furnishing him money to pay the balance of the Contract that I am aware of, as it does not appear so far as I am informed, that he made any requisition for additional advancement of money, until the 14<sup>th</sup> October last, when he addressed the Sec<sup>y</sup> and



the subject, and enclosed Mr. Towns' final Bill to  
shew the balance that would be due him if the  
execution of the Contract was approved and the bill  
for extra work allowed — The payments credited  
on this bill, alleged to have been made to Towns, correspond  
with the credits given to Jew in his settled accounts —  
The balance due on this bill as stated is \$19,719.50, together  
with a claim in the bill for extra work, not carried  
out — If anything is allowed for this, it will have  
to be added, from which the amount now due on the  
settled account is to be deducted, and the balance  
together with Mr. Jew's Commission thereon, would  
seem to be due — If the Secretary is satisfied with  
the execution of <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ Contract and approves of the  
bill for extra work, and remits the amount to Mr. Jew,  
the accounts will be closed as soon as receipts for  
the payment thereof shall be furnished the accounting  
Officers

I am Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt.

Hon. L. Woodbury  
Sir

J. Miller

Wm. A. Wood



Private Chamber  
Washington Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. accompanied by the Report of the auditor of the Treasury Dept. on the subject of the Branch mint at Dahl.

I entertain no doubt Sir, of the dispositions on your part, & that of the officers of your Department, to discharge promptly every duty which may devolve on you, in connection with the subject of my former letter.

Nevertheless, it is obvious from the Report of the auditor, that some default is chargeable to Col. Kern - and the Contractors & individuals in whose behalf I was first induced to address you, are suffering materially on account of the delay of the Govt Agent. in discharging his duty with promptness. I trust prompt measures may be taken to hasten the final adjustment of this matter - & thereby relieve the suffering laborers who have performed the work of the Govt.

With great Respect  
Yrs. Obt. Servt.

Wilson Lumpkin



Senate Chamber  
Washington Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Hon. Lang Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir

Since answering your communication  
of yesterday's date - I have received yours of  
this morning on the same subject. (The Branch  
Mint at Dahlouga) - I am much gratified  
& relieved by the reception of your last  
letter - and unhesitatingly advise, that  
you transmit the money to Col.  
Singleton Superintendent of the mint,  
with the proper instructions for its dis-  
bursement. Col. Singleton may be relied  
upon for integrity. I would not ~~pass~~ disburse  
the money through Col. Few - or trust  
it direct to the hands of the contractors.

With very great Respect

Yr. Obedt. Servt.

Wilson Lumpkin

Follow the advice

W



1572

Washington Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Hon Levi Woodbury

Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir

I am very desirous to obtain accurate information, upon the subject of the appropriations & disbursements of public money, in <sup>the</sup> erection of the buildings &c. of the Branch Mint of the U. S. at Dahlouga Georgia. To whom & when, the advances from the Treasury have been made &c. I trouble you with this enquiry, under the impression, that it properly refers itself to your Department.

My motive & object in making this Enquiry, is to be found in the facts - that the Government is very much slandered & abused (I have no doubt without just cause) for withholding the means, for the payment of the Laborers & Mechanics who have actually done & performed the labor. As I understand the case, Col. Fox was the Superintendent & Agent of the Govt. who let & superintended the Building. Finley & Towns were the Contractors, who undertook



& completed the building. These contractors reside in my Town (Athens Ga) & most of the Mechanics & laborers who done the work, also reside in my Town. These laborers complain, & have been complaining for a year past, that they can get nothing from Tinsley & Towns, while their families are suffering &c. These contractors have also borrowed large sums of money, which they have failed to pay, & are now sued for the amount.

Tinsley & Towns, declare that a large amount is still due them from the Govt. for work long since executed & received by the Agent of the Govt. - and that, the Agent. Col. Fenn, places the default on the Govt. & says, that he has faithfully disbursed, all that he has received.

I have now had an opportunity of seeing or conversing with Col. Fenn on this subject. But Tinsley, Towns, & the Mechanics, & laborers, have frequently applied to me, & represented as herein before stated.

I have promised them, that on my arrival in this place - they should be



correctly informed. You will perceive, that  
the bottom of these complaints, are  
cast upon the Govt. - Therefore I  
have to request, that with all practicable  
dispatch, I may be afforded, the means  
to place this matter in its true light.

Every mail from my place, bring  
me letters from these complainants.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully  
Yr. Obedt. Servt.  
Wilson Lumpkin

Set Mr. McKim

Adelphi & called to him today

how then is

W



*Dr* *Synathus Jew*, *Commissioner* appointed to *Superintend* the *erection* of a *Branch Mint* at *Callenega, Georgia*,  
in *account* with the *United States*

64

For balance due from him per acc<sup>t</sup> \$69,978  
To Warrants on the Treasurer  
for \$3038 dated 3 June 1836  
— 4691 — 16 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1837

1704 44

8500 00

9130 00

By amount of his *Expenditures* for the *erection* of said *Branch Mint* since the *settlement* of his last account \$69,978 viz  
By amount paid *Benjamin Poens*, *Contractor* for *building*  
said *Branch Mint*, per receipt dated 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1836, being  
the 3<sup>d</sup> *payment* on his *Contract*

7000 00

By Cash paid Do 3<sup>d</sup> *payment* on do

6600 00

— *Town & Tondley*, their *expenses* in *going* to  
*Philadelphia* "to inspect the *Mint* & receive *instructions* in  
regard to *alterations*"

320 00

— *Edward Thomas* for *carrying* etc. for *Branch Mint*

15 00

— " *Journal of Commerce* for *advertising* notice  
to *Contractors*

8 52

— " *William Strickland* for *lingering*

100 00

By *Specie* *Commissioner* on his *Expenditures*, allowed by the  
*Secretary of the Treasury* per his letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> of  
March 1835

Amount of his *Expenditures*, per acc<sup>t</sup> \$69,978

2785 36

per this acc<sup>t</sup>

13443 82

16739 38

334 79

14275 84

5055 83

Balance due from him to be accounted for on a *future settlement*

Dollar 19334 44

19334 44

Balance due from him per his account

3390 61 3/4

per this

5055 83

33478 3/4

Difference

which arises as follows

Debit from his balance *Specie* *Comm<sup>rs</sup>* allowed on

this account. — leave

5055 83 1/4

add fraction of a cent

1/4

Balance as above

Dollar

5055 83

First Audited Office  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 16. 1839



04. *Signature* A. <sup>W</sup> *Few*, Commissioner for Superintending the erection of a Branch Mint at Dahlonega in Georgia, in account with the United States 64

|                                                        |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| To Treasury Warrant, for amount of the following viz   |          |
| N <sup>o</sup> 1534 dated 8 <sup>th</sup> October 1835 | 1500 00  |
| N <sup>o</sup> 2511 " 1 <sup>st</sup> March 1836       | 3,000 00 |
|                                                        | <hr/>    |
| Dollars                                                | 4500 00  |

The Balance due from Mr. *Few* per his account marked B, herewith, is 1,604.43 1/4

To which add the following Sums, viz:—

Amount charged for William Knottland's account for design and plans, suspended for want of

Amount of fraction of a cent charged on said account for payments for advertisements, rejected 100 00

Dollars 1,704.44 1/4

By amount of his payments for advertisements for proposals for Contract. — Per Voucher N<sup>o</sup> 1 and 7 herewith 15 56

Amount paid for the Lot on which to erect the said Branch Mint Per deed of Mrs. Noby and receipt of W. L. Mitchell for John Parks, N<sup>o</sup> 8, dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 1835 1030 00

£<sup>st</sup> There is not any document, showing the right of either Mitchell or Parks to receive the money — But in the deed, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1835, William Noby acknowledges the receipt of the same amount —

Amount paid 13<sup>th</sup> April 1836 to Benjamin Towns for the 1<sup>st</sup> Instalment, for the erection of said Branch Mint conformably to the Contract then for dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1835, on file in the Comptroller's office per rec<sup>d</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 9 1700 00

Balance remaining to be accounted for 1704 44 1/4

Dollars 4,500 00

\* The said Contract is for \$33,450. The instalments to be paid as the work progresses, as estimated by and Signature *Few* as sole Judge thereof, for said purpose —

The Deed was borrowed from the office of the Secretary of the Treasury. He not know whether it should be returned or filed with the account —

The Contract was borrowed from the Comptroller's office and to be returned to his files

Audited Office 6<sup>th</sup> June 1836  
(Signed) Wm. Parks

Comptroller's Office  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1836  
(Signed) R. S. P. Parker



(Copy)

No 69.978

Statement of the account  
Synatus A. Few

Ent<sup>d</sup> 9. June 1836  
Bl. pa. 201



MK

M

152

B. U. S. Mint  
Dahlgren 19 Dec. 1839

Hon. Saml Woodbury

Sir I have the hon. to  
enclose you by the same mail which  
carries this our first package of Gold Coins  
of this years coining, for the Annual assay  
at Philadelphia, containing thirteen pieces,  
one from each Melt of 1839, amounting  
in value to fifty seven Dollars and fifty cents.  
which you will be pleased to receive, and  
forward on to the Director of the Mint  
at Philadelphia.

Very respectfully Yours  
Rumley Searant

J. S. Singleton  
S. J. Treas

See if package arrived  
let me see it

W



*M* 153 Br. U.S. Mint  
Deklonger W Decr 1839

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sir I have the hon.  
to enclose you by the same mail  
which carries this, our D package of  
Gold Coin of this years coinage, for  
the next Annual Exposition at Philadelphia  
containing thirteen pieces, one from each  
Mint of 1839. Amounting in value to  
fifty seven Dollars and fifty cents - which  
you will be pleased to receive and  
forward to the Director of the Mint  
at Philadelphia.

Very respectfully  
Your humble Servant  
J. H. Singleton  
Supt. of Treasurers

Done  
W



154 Br. U.S. Mint  
Baltimore 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1839

Hon Isaac Woodlark

Sir I have the hon. to  
enclose you by the same mail which carries  
this our third package of Gold Coin of  
this years Coinage for the Annual at  
Philadelphia, containing several pieces one  
from each melt of 1839 saw one N<sup>o</sup> 12.  
amounting <sup>in value</sup> to fifty two Dollars and fifty cents,  
which you will be pleased to receive, and  
forward them to the Director of the Mint  
at Philadelphia.

Very respectfully,  
Your humble servant  
J<sup>o</sup> S. Singleton  
Supt. of Treasury

See to this  
40



Mr.

155

Bm. U.S. Mint,  
Dahlonega 26<sup>th</sup> December 1839

Hon. Isaac Woodbury

Sir I have the hon. to  
enclose you by the same mail which carries  
this our fourth package of Gold Coin of  
this years coining, for the Annual assay  
at Philadelphia, containing ten pieces from  
nine of our mints for 1839. amounting in value  
to forty seven dollars and fifty cents, which you  
will be pleased to receive and forward to the  
Director of the Mint at Philadelphia.

Very respectfully, Sir I am  
Yours humble servant

Attn to Mr  
h

J. M. Singleton  
Chief of Treasurer



M

(156)

Br. U. S. Mint  
Dakota Decr 1839

Gen. Isaac Woodbury

Sir I have the hon. to  
acknowledge the receipt of your communication  
of the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst. on the subject of a settlement  
with Col. Jew the superintending agent for  
the building of the Office for this branch  
of the U. S. Mint, and the Contractors for  
the same, Messrs. Tinsley & Crows. In due  
time I will attend with pleasure to all  
matters contained in said communication.

I have the hon. Sir  
of being yours very  
respectfully &c

J. S. Singleton  
Supt. & Treasr.



and to the 31<sup>st</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup>. '38, the Bank of the State of North Carolina received \$29,870 as per Statement of the Agent— whether this is  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of the Coinage of \$84,165, I leave to Mr. Bissell's sagacity and geological acumen, only adding, if it were true that the Banks had received  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> or every piece of coin struck at this Mint, it would work <sup>no</sup> attainder of treason <sup>as to</sup> in me; when as the Statement of the Agent justly remarks, "it was either optional with the depositors to hold the certificates, or to dispose of them as they thought proper".

But says Mr. Bissell in the last remark which I shall notice, this Coinage of \$84,000 has cost the Government, at least \$20,000. or 25 per Cent without interest or incidental Expenses. I will not condescend to argue with one who would use so unfair a statement, as to charge to the commencement and first year of a large and complicated establishment, the whole expenses of building, fixtures, apparatus & Machinery. This is a state charge, and has been long trumpeted through the federal press; & for which Mr. Bissell is not entitled to the credit of originality. Suppose this rule is applied to the Mint at New Orleans. By a document laid before Congress on 23<sup>d</sup> March 1838, by the Secretary of the Treasury the expense of that Branch Mint to 1838, was \$312,000. And the appropriation of 1838, was 62. \$374,000. The Coinage of that Branch to the end of the year was \$40,243. How fair would the deduction be to argue from the cost of this Coinage, the usefulness of the establishment?

If there has been complaints from any other source against me, I have been so fortunate as not to hear of them. What interest Mr. Bissell has in the mines I know not, but whatever it may be, he is not the only miner in the Country, and why does he assume the enviable character of preferring complaints in their behalf? He cannot have experienced any ill effects from mismanagement or delays, as regards to any deposits that he may have made, for the Books of the Mint show, that there never was a penny weight of Gold deposited by him or in his name. What then could have induced this communication, untrue in many parts, unjust in others, and ungenerous in all, I cannot imagine.

9 Jan 1839  
RC 704 entry 216004

As I stated in the commencement, admitting that it was true it could not affect me as an Officer, or a Man.



I have endeavoured in the course of a short life, (mostly since my majority passed in the service of my native State or the General Government) faithfully and magnanimously to fulfil every duty committed my charge.

To misrepresent is too much the order of the day, and I conclude this letter, with the truism of a recent report to Congress, that in our Government, it is a right to know and it is done, and how it is done in public affairs, and that the greatest guaranty of freedom is publicity.

I have the honor to be  
Very respectfully  
Your Aft. Servt

Mo. R. Whelan  
Superintendent of  
the Branch Mint of U.S.  
at Charlotte N.C.

Honble S. Woodbury  
Sec. of Treasury  
Washington City



Office Bank of the State of  
Charleston, 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. 1837

This may certify that since the 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1837  
there has been deposited by this office in the Dr  
Mint at this place, Gold Bullion, amounting  
to \$50,000. — Of this sum, \$15,000 was purchased  
here, for which the full value, according to the  
Mint assay, was paid in every instance.

Previous to assay, advances were made on the Bullion  
as nearly the value as could be ascertained by inspec-  
tion, & the full amount, according to the assay, was  
paid as soon as that was obtained.

In payment, the holders either received Credit  
on their Notes, or the bills of this Bank.

There has been no arrangement between the  
Mint & the Bank, in virtue of which the latter was  
to purchase the receipts or certificates of deposit;  
but it has always been customary with depositors,  
either to hold such certificates until the Coin should  
be ready for delivery at the Mint, or dispose of  
them in any way they thought proper.

Planned

(L. M. A. M. W.)

Wm. H. P. 2<sup>nd</sup>



The balance deposited in the name of this  
Office (say \$35.200) was purchased by an Agency  
of the Bank at Morganton, & I presume  
upon the same conditions as at this place

Wm. J. Blackwood Act

I. S. I will further state that at this  
time, there nothing due on the above  
mentioned amount of deposits, from  
the Mint to the Bank.

W. J. Blackwood

Rec'd in coin from the Mint

to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1838. \$29.870 (for which \$3380 was, according to)  
for idony to 23 Mar. 1839.  $\frac{24.145}{54.015}$

to 31 Dec How much?

Any other unsettled accounts?



M 157

U. S. Branch Mint

Charlotte N.C. 30 March 1839

Sir

I acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst. which covered a communication from Mr. Bissell directed to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Joel R. Poinsett relative to the operations of this Branch of the Mint of the United States. By the kindness of a Friend at Washington I had learned that some communication had been sent by Mr. Bissell to the Executive, and in a note directed to you on the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst. I desired that you would procure a copy for me, which you have done, and for which I thank you.

I do not therefore view the communication as charges preferred against me, yet if the correctness of every word of it was admitted, there would be but little to censure in me as an Officer, nothing to blame as a man.

Mr. Bissell complains in the first place, that "the Mint has failed in the object for which it was established after a fair and protracted trial."

It has not yet been a year, since the first piece of coin was struck at this Mint. This first year has been one of trial & delays and unavoidable difficulties. New and complicated Machinery, - a position of Country that supplied no material for operation, (with the exception of Coal) and remote from the points of supply, and many other difficulties might be named that tended to retard our progress, or fulfil the expectations which led to our establishment. Yet all these difficulties have been so far surmounted, as will be seen on reference to the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint sent to Congress on the 18 Jan<sup>y</sup> last, by the President, that we have received more than \$130,000 of Bullion from the North Carolina Mines, and coined \$84,165 in half and quarter Eagles.

Mr. Bissell in the communication, in the next place very gravely states, that the Superintendent has no knowledge of "Geology, and Mineralogy, general and metallurgical Chemistry, as well as Mechanics and of whatever relates to the Nature and properties of metals."

It is always unpleasant to speak of oneself. I will not enter into a detail of my advantages or acquirements, only to say that my education has not been neglected, nor my opportunities unimproved.



My pretensions to my present Office, were warmly espoused by many of the Members of Congress from North Carolina, by the Governor of the State at that time, (The Hon.<sup>ble</sup> R. D. Spaight) and by the Hon.<sup>ble</sup> Vice President of the United States. The Gentlemen of the Bar of my native County in this State, with whom I practiced law for five years, with great unanimity proffered testimonials of their knowledge of my acquirements & talents. My knowledge of my present pursuits has been greatly improved by a close observance of the different processes of Assaying, Melting, Refining and Coining at the Mint in Philadelphia to which I was summoned soon after my appointment. But admit the fact and what does it prove? If I was the best practical Assayer or Coiner in the Union it would be illegal and highly improper to interfere with those Officers in the proper discharge of their duty, and who are appointed by the same source of power, (the President & Senate) for their knowledge of their different departments of science, and for the exercise of which they are responsible. While I candidly acknowledge that I am not a Humphrey Davy in science, yet so far as my present duties are concerned I have, I trust intellect enough to comprehend my duty, and integrity enough faithfully to discharge the same. My Monthly Reports made to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, who has by law the general regulation of the Mints will show my capacity for business, and my Quarterly accounts to you will show my fidelity as a disbursing Agent.

If I have failed faithfully to discharge my duty in any respect, I am not aware of it. Located at a place the communication of which with the points of supply, is at some periods of the year impracticable and at all periods hazardous, and with greater obstacles than either of the Branches at Georgia or New Orleans, I succeeded earlier than either of these in getting into operation. The Report of the Director before alluded to shows that the New Orleans Branch commenced receiving Deposits on the 8 March, the Georgia Branch in February, while this Branch commenced receiving Deposits on the 4<sup>th</sup> December previous.

My efforts have been unsparing to forward the Mining and Mercantile Interests of the Country as connected with the Mint. I have created Mercantile facilities, and made advances on deposits, when no such convenience or advantage could have been required of me. This, Mr. Bissell has acknowledged - then I conclude, that the statement if true does not affect my official reputation, - for if the Superintendent must



understand all these branches of Science, why commission others to discharge these duties? It in some cases might tend to a more uniform action, but could not the same be made to the Superintendents of the New Orleans and Georgia Mints?

Mr. Bissell further states that "internal dissensions, quarrels, exactions unreasonable, recrimination and finally a stoppage of all work for days together have followed." This is incorrect. Nothing of this kind has ever occurred to impede the public work to my knowledge. If Mr. Bissell refers to the fact in the beginning of the year, that some rules for the regulation of this Mint were made, at which the workmen took a day or so to consider, or to any difference of opinion as regards the manner of the reporting the assays, between the Assayer and Superintendent, he is mistaken. In the first case, the workmen were soon satisfied; and in the second the matter was completely adjusted as soon as the Director could be heard from; and in the interim, the public work regularly progressed, and depositors were advised that if desired, advances would be made on their deposits.

In the next place Mr. Bissell states that "the Superintendent has never been able in a single instance to inform depositors when their Gold would be assayed, or when coinage might be anticipated. The Assayer, he states, has assayed as he has seen fit &c."

That there has been some complaints as regards the length of time that deposits are kept on hand without assay is admitted. This doubtless in a great measure arises from the Assayer having in this Mint the duty also of Minter & Refiner. I would state in vindication of myself, that I required assays at least twice a week regularly, and the Director of the Mint, who I beg leave <sup>here</sup> distinctly to state has by law "the general regulation of the Branches," thought that no rule was necessary.

There is no deposit of Gold at this time unassayed in the Mint, therefore no complaint can justly be made at this time. If the assays are not prompt and regular, it is not the fault of the Superintendent. The Assayer is able to vindicate himself.

The next statement made, which is very serious in its charge, if correct is, "when (Mr. Bissell) left Charlotte, there were unpaid and unsettled Bullion accounts of magnitude and pressed (for settlement) of more than five months standing." This is grossly untrue. The Books of the



will show that there is no account for that period open, and with one or two exceptions, no account of twenty days standing unsettled or unpaid. Nor is there any demand for payment that can probably be made at this time, that cannot be met in the coin or its equivalent. The statement of the Agent of the Bank of the State of North Carolina (filed herewith) shows that of a deposit account of \$50,000 not a cent was due on the 23<sup>d</sup> Inst. This is one of the heaviest accounts, but illustrates the whole Ledger.

But this statement so satisfactorily disproves, is fully as correct as the one next made by Mr. Bissell, that "after disappointment has followed disappointment, until the Gold Bullion has resumed its old channel northward, and that this is apparent from the sum of more than \$110,000 coinage at Philadelphia, which would never have gone from the doors of the Mint at Charlotte except from gross mismanagement." That Merchants and others going North will take gold Bullion, a commodity that will always command its value, and thus save the premium of exchange, cannot be denied. Interest, that searching operation in all communities will prompt this. But Mr. Bissell's imagination strongly betrays itself in this and other instances, for he is directly contradicted by the official documents of the Country, the Report of the Director before alluded to, shows on page 4 that only \$66,000 of Bullion was received for Coinage at Philadelphia from the Mines of North Carolina for the year 1838.

Equally correct is the next statement, that "above one half of the whole Coinage at Charlotte ( $\frac{2}{3}$  he believes) has become the property of the Bank of the State and of other Banks by purchases and advances upon the Gold, a sacrifice rendered necessary to the Miner by indefinite delay of Coinage". If Miners and others after depositing their Gold, sell their Certificates to the Banks or others, it is no affair of mine. But I aver that in no instance has any sacrifice occurred to the Miner or others. and the statement of Mr. Bissell is contradicted in this respect by the facts set forth in the statement of the Agent of the Bank before alluded to, as well as in another statement, that "there was an understanding that the Bank should be drawn on to pay Depositors."

As to the statement, that "of the Coinage of last year (\$84,165) two thirds or more of which belongs to the Banks in this State or South Carolina", I would only remark that not one Certificate to my knowledge, was ever purchased by any Bank in South Carolina.



M

158

U. S. Pr. Mint  
Charlotte NC 3<sup>d</sup> April  
'39

Sir

I am advised that a statement was made in reply to the communication of Mr. Bishop by my friend the Hon Robt Strange of the U. S. Senate, and also by the Director of the Mint.

May I ask to be favoured with copies of these communications?

I have the honor

to be, very respectfully

Yours Obedient

Geo. N. Wheeler

Superintendent of  
the Pr. Mint at Charlotte

Adj. 24th of enclosure  
being the originals,  
which he may  
read & copy  
if he please &  
then return  
by

Hon  
Sec of the Treasury.



McK

M

159

M. J. B. Mint

Charlotte N.C. 9th May 39

Sir

I return you with my thanks the letter of the Hon Edge Stange, sent me in yours of the 11 ult. as you request.

This prompt and unhesitating reply to the late complaints of our Bible readers any further notice on my part unnecessary, and the successful operation of this Branch, is a further complete refutation of the assertions in the only complaint that I have heard of against it.

I am ever respectfully

Your ob. servant

Geo W. Wheeler

Sup of B. Mint

Hon L. Woodbury

S. of the Treasurer

Wash.

Letter filed  
Private file



M 160  
Milledgeville Georgia March 13<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Dear Sir,

I Am happy to find that Congress  
has passed on and allowed me my claim against  
the United States as Commissioner of the Branch  
Mint at Charlotte N Carolina.

I tender to you my sincere thanks for  
your kindness in recommending to the Com-  
mittee of Congress the amount I claimed for  
I am well satisfied had it not been for your  
kindness my claim would not have been  
passed on by Congress as soon if ever, altho  
I am satisfied of rendering full service to the  
United States for the amount I claimed;

You will please cause to be forwarded on  
to me the amount due me from the United  
States as soon as it is convenient for you to  
do so, I was three years in the service of the  
United States as Commissioner of the Branch  
Mint at Charlotte N Carolina including the  
time of inclosing the ground and the erection  
of the out buildings &c.

You however are in full  
possession of my returns and services under  
the United States & also the bill as passed



by Congress and whatever you think fits I will  
be satisfied with.

I have removed to this place Milledgeville  
State of Georgia, where you will please to cause to be  
transmitted to me the amount of my claim. Your  
~~request~~ directing the payment to me in New-  
York or Philadelphia if convenient and mi-  
table for you to do direct, will be thankfully  
acknowledged;

Please to accept my best wishes for your  
health and happiness, I am your most obedt  
servant &c

J. M. McComb

To Hon Levi Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury

Edward G. Loring